



METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WORCESTER
2 WELLINGTON STREET
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS 01610
Telephone: (617) 753-8360

Shelley A. Hamilton
District Coordinator
Northeast District
July 19, 1979

Greetings to all churches of the Northeast District

This is the first of what I hope and pray will be a monthly letter from me to the churches of the Northeast District. I feel it is imperative that our contact with each other become a more regular event. I would request that each church send me a brief statement of your activities and happenings so that I can inform all of our churches about what is going on with each of us. I hope to be able to pass on national and international news that will enable us to be more aware of the Universal nature of our denomination.

The actions of our Board of Home Missions at our May Conference consisted of: Apointing MCC/Good News, Albany, New York, officially a study group and The Reverend Jon Kuiper Worship Coordinator. The Board agreed to recommend to the District Conference that it approve a resolution of racism which had been suggested to us by the Detroit Church. We discussed at length the criticism received by The Reverend Karen Ziegler as a result of her article in The Gay Christian. We wrote a letter of support and response to the South Central District regarding their hostile and judgemental attitudes towards Karen and her article.

The Conference also elected new District Officers. They are The Reverend Shelley A. Hamilton, District Coordinator, The Reverend Dee Jackson, Assistant District Coordinator, Mr. Kenneth Barr, Treasurer, Mr. Carl Connish, Secretary.

News around the District. The Reverend Nancy Wilson installed The Reverend Karen Ziegler as Pastor of our New York Church, July 15, 1979. The Reverend Shelley Hamilton preached. It was hot, uncomfortable, but wonderful. The service was blessed by the richness of a loving and open spirit. God rejoiced with us all. Karen was beautiful and gracious and sweating as her congregation

donned her in the vestments they had made for her installation gift. There was a bold and new vision there and it was apparent that people were re-committing themselves. The District welcomes Karen to her first Pastorate.

Worcester has begun their pastoral search committee. They have devised an intelligent and sensitive package which they have mailed out to all available ministers in the Fellowship. They have renewed themselves and although they profess sorrow at my leaving they are prepared for the challenges ahead. They forge ahead for chartering and look forward to hosting the February District Conference.

Providence also has begun work on their pastoral search in preparation for The Reverend Marge Ragona's departure the first of August. Belle Pellegrino and Carl Cronish will assume the responsibilities of Worship Coordinator until such time as the church calls a new pastor. Belle informs me that spirits are high in the Providence church and that people are in touch with the reality that they are the church.

Hartford finds it-self involved in the development of receiving a new pastor. The Reverend Steve Pieters held his first service in Hartford June 24, 1979. I spoke with him on that day at the Gay Pride March in NYC and on behalf of the district I extended him a warm and loving welcome into our district. I can say that he resonded with equal warmth and love and I expect that Hartford and the NED will be hearing great and wonderful things from Steve. Steve tells me that he is busily making the acquaintance of the city and is looking steadily for permanent office space for the church. We wish you well and success.

New Haven travels faithfully onward. The District would like to thank Ken Thierault for his service and concern of the last few years. We acknowledge the stability and permanence of the New Haven Study Group because of his love and efforts. We are sorry to see him go but recognize his need to go on. Alan LaPayover, newly licensed and a student at Union Theological Seminary has taken over the responsibilities of Sunday Worship in New Haven for the summer. Chet Jones, presently Worship Coordinator at State College, Pa., will move to New Haven in September and assume the responsibilities of resident Worship Coordinator.

Boston is busy being the city of culture. Edward tells me that there is a new and wonderful spirit. There is some talk and a lot of hope that the 1981 General Conference will be held in Boston. Let us join our hearts in prayer that

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that might become a reality.

Brooklyn MCC Alpha and Omega are also preparing to begin searching for a new pastor. Dee feels that the Lord is leading her to begin a new group on Long Island. We are excited about this possibility and at the same time are concerned about losing her in Brooklyn. I attended worship there July 15 and was pleased to see the spirit and excitement still in tact. They are hard at work trying to resolve the conflicts and struggles involved in daily church living.

MCC Hispana is busy working towards chartering. They just settled into a new worship space at Madison Ave. Baptist church. We feel that's an exciting thing and can have powerful ecumenical results. Jose is involved in the planning of a trip to South America sometime around the first of the year. We believe the implications of such a trip are far reaching and extremely significant. We pray for this.

MCC Syracuse hosted an amazing conference. The Spirit was incredible and so very beautiful. For a small church they did a wonderful job. They are to be applauded and thanked. They are busy planning a Spiritual Retreat for the early part of September which they have kindly invited me to take part in. I look forward to spending more time with them.

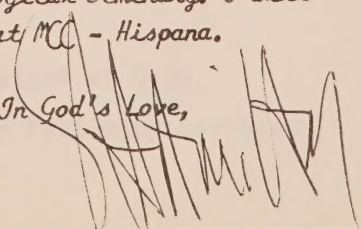
The District welcomes into being MCC - Good News in Albany, New York. We also welcome The Reverend Jon Kuiper as Worship Coordinator there. Jon is also receiving a lot of national and local press as a result of winning custody of his adopted son. The court decision seems to be a precedent and we are happy about the results.

I would like to say to each of the churches that I appreciate your vote of confidence in electing me your District Coordinator. If any of you have need of me or wish me to visit your churches I hope that you will feel free to call upon me.

As of August 26, 1979 I will no longer be the pastor of the Worcester church. My residence will be in New York City at Union Theological Seminary. I will be serving on the staff of The Reverend Jose Mojica at MCC - Hispana.

I wish the peace of Jesus might fill you all.

In God's Love,



HAVE YOU EVER.....

FELT LEFT OUT OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF YOUR CHURCH,
THE FELLOWSHIP, THE DISTRICT?????

FELT THAT YOU HAD AN IDEA THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO OTHERS
IN THE FELLOWSHIP, THE DISTRICT?????

WANTED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF THE CHURCH?????

BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT ANYTHING, AT ANY LEVEL, THAT YOU WANTED
TO VOICE AN OPINION ABOUT -- AND NO ONE WAS THERE?????

WANTED TO BE VERY INVOLVED?????

WANTED TO CHANGE SOMETHING ABOUT THE CHURCH ?????

FELT THAT IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME TO TALK ABOUT YOUR IDEAS?????

DID YOU SAY YES TO ANY OF THESE.....

DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE ALL OF THIS?????

AT LAST, A CHANCE TO BE HEARD!!!!!!

YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT!!!!!!

COME -- BE HEARD -- BE LISTENED TO!!!!!!

JOIN IN HAVING YOUR VOICE HEARD!!!!!!

JOIN IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS!!!!!!

YOU DO HAVE A PLACE!!!!!!

YOUR REPRESENTATIVE WILL HEAR YOU!!!!!!

ONLY YOU CAN SAY WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.....

THE OFFICE OF LAY CONCERNS IS YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!

JOIN IN!!!!!!

YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE!!!!!!

YOU ARE THE CHURCH!!!!!!

Meeting tonight at 8:30

Immediately following service.

HAVE YOU EVER.....
FELL OUT OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS OF YOUR CHURCH,
THIS FELLOWSHIP, THE DISTRICT??
WELL THAT YOU HAD AIDE. THAT WOULD BE OF INTEREST TO OTHERS
IN THE FELLOWSHIP, THE DISTRICT??
WANTED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION OF THE CHURCH??
SEEN CONCERNED ABOUT SOMETHING, OR ANY LEADER, THAT YOU WANTED
TO VOICE AN OPINION ABOUT -- AND NO ONE WAS THERE??
WANTED TO BE VERY INVOLVED??
WANTED TO CHANGE SOMETHING ABOUT THE CHURCH??
FEEL THAT IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME TO TALK ABOUT YOUR IDEAS??

DID YOU EVER TRY TO SAY SOMETHING.....
DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE ALL OF THIS??
AT LAST, A CHANCE TO BE HEARD!!!
YOUR IDEAS ARE IMPORTANT!!!
COME -- BE HEARD -- BE LISTENED TO!!!
JOIN IN HEARING YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!!!
JOIN IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS!!!
YOU DO HAVE A PLACE!!!
YOUR REPRESENTATIVE WILL HEAR YOUR VOICE!!!
ONLY YOU CAN SAY WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.....
THE CHURCH OF LAY CONCERN IS HERE!!!
JOIN IN!!!
YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT!!!
YOU ARE THE CHURCH!!!

Meeting tonight at 8:30
Immediately following service.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
P. O. Box 1462, Annex Sta.
Providence, Rhode Island 02907

*Rev. Herbert
Lucas*

TO: Members of the Board of Home Missions
Pastors and Churches of the Northeast District
District Coordinator, Assistant District Coordinator
District Secretary, District Treasurer

FROM: Members of Metropolitan Community Church of Providence
Rev. Marge Ragona

Dear Friends:

Attached are copies of our supporting papers requesting chartering for MCC Providence.

First, a little history: MCC Providence came into being in 1973. By August 29th, 1973, we were a chartered church in the Fellowship. Our first pastor was Rev. Arthur Cazeault, then 22 years of age. Due to some unrealistic dreams (understandable in view of Art's age, and the fact that he became a member, an exhorter, and pastor of MCC Providence all on the same day), MCC Providence went through enormous early growth and sudden falling off of membership. A coffee-house had been opened, which became terribly expensive to run, particularly in view of Providence's pattern of taking to the outdoors as soon as summer arrives, and only returning to indoor activities in the cool weather. The coffee-house found itself in large debt, with a very large rent to meet and was unable to meet its debt. Those debts have now been paid off, with the exception of the remainder of the lease on the coffee-house location, which debt has been forgiven this church and as of this time, the church is free and clear of indebtedness.

Our second pastor was Rev. Joseph Gilbert. The church was recovering from the fiasco of the coffee-house and Joseph attempted to maintain the atmosphere of friendliness and conviviality at another, cheaper location. This did not succeed. MCC Providence was unable to locate a church in which to meet and moved to a house church, which eventually was stoned by youngsters in the neighborhood, driving the church out of that location. Mathewson Street United Methodist Church opened its doors to us. Under Rev. Gilbert, the church decided that it was not able to fulfill the responsibilities of a chartered church and the charter was returned, in July of 1975. Rev. Gilbert left in the spring of 1977.

Exhorter and later Rev. Steven LaFever was left in charge of the then struggling church. Steve felt called to seek a ministry in another part of the country and candidated throughout the Midwest. On his return the church was in very poor financial condition, had lost members and was struggling for survival. It was requested that Steven vacate the pulpit and open it to another minister.

Since October 1, 1977, Rev. Marge Ragona has been pastor. During this full year of her pastorate the church has grown from approximately 20 members to 46 members. The church still meets for worship at Mathewson Street United Methodist Church, where we receive enthusiastic support from our host pastor and the Trustees of the church. Our services are held in the chapel during the summer (which is air-conditioned) and seats approximately 50 people. In the winter, we

need to use the sanctuary, which seats over 400.

We have access to a full hotel kitchen at the church, which was put to good use when the two churches came to the rescue of over 175 stranded motorists and Providence residents during the great blizzard of 1978. During that week we fed nearly 1300 persons at a meal, including the Police Department, Fire Department, National Guard, plow operators, City Hall staff, etc. Fourteen MCC members, 2 Mathewson Street Members, and 8 Brown University students provided the work-force for this shelter.

More recently, we have been encouraged to use the building during the week for other activities, which have included a dinner in honor of Rev. Troy Perry (with 71 in attendance), and the film, "GAY U.S.A." (with 62 in attendance).

Our Sunday services during the last year have gone from a base of 17 on October 1, 1977, to 80 on September 24, 1978. During the month of September 1978 our average attendance has been 64.

Our offerings began in fall of 1977 averaging approximately \$100.00 per Sunday.

In the Spring of 1978, we undertook Operation Resurrection, the Fellowship program of church renewal. Our plans included one outreach activity per month (a dance, party, film, involvement in the R.I. Gay Symposium, etc.), and one fund-raising activity per month (flea market, film, cake sale, dinner, etc.)

Summer has always been the most difficult time for survival for MCC Providence, however, this summer we maintained an average attendance of between 35-40 in our congregation, maintained a budget of approximately \$500.00 a month, and increased our membership by 7 members who were enlisted during the summer.

During September, mainly because of two minor fundraising efforts (a flea market, which had been scheduled; and a film which had been postponed from the previous month, due to the surprise visit of Rev. Perry) we took in an additional \$170. However, our tithes and offerings produced approximately \$800.00.

Approximately once a month we are visited by a guest preacher (paid), and have had such persons as Fr. Gordon Chaisson, a Roman Catholic Priest from Willimantic, Conn., Rev. Kathryn Piccard, an Episcopal priest from Cambridge, Mass., two exhorters from Boston, Rev. Stan Harris of MCC Baltimore, and we are expecting Rev. Gil Lincoln from MCC New York in October. We have also planned a visit from Rev. Dr. Paul Gillespie, Executive Minister of the Rhode Island Council of Churches, who asked for the opportunity to preach to us during Troy's visit.

Financial Report: Attached herewith is the annual financial report of the church, covering the entire one year period of Rev. Ragona's pastorate, and reflecting the current state of the church. It will be noted that monthly earnings have shown some variation. Vacation months have been somewhat of a financial strain. This includes March, when the pastor was away for both Eastern Minister's Conference and the meeting of the Commission on Women in Ministry of the National Council of churches.

June-July reflect the local practice of shutting down jewelry factories so that workers either do not collect pay or have to wait until they can collect unemployment for a two-week layoff. Many are not covered by vacation pay.

By and large the church is covered by the tithes and offerings of the people. Outside fundraising is not a significant source of income. The consistent giving and income level of the church is reflected in the MEAN and AVERAGE shown at the bottom of the pages. The mean monthly income is \$666.65; the average is \$649.07. District Coordinator Hougen, at the May meeting of the Board of Home Missions, expressed the feeling that the income level should approach \$160.00 weekly. With the total of \$7870.85 averaged over the year, the weekly income would be \$153.00. However, averages for the last six months alone would reflect an income of \$164.60 weekly, which is within the parameters that were suggested.

The church is free of debt. Telephone conversation with our attorney, Leonard Clingham confirms our treasurer's conviction that the remainder of the Empire Street lease debt which amounted to \$4,000 (incurred when the church broke the lease at 75 Empire Street, because of inability to maintain a \$700.00 a month rental) has been dismissed by the landlord. Central Realty after payment of only \$150.00 was able to be paid in a one year period from 1975-1976. This was the only remaining debt. All other small indebtedness to any businesses, the current landlord, the Mathewson Methodist Church, and the Fellowship have all been paid.

Pastor's Salary: As can be seen from the financial report, the pastor is currently receiving 54% of the church's income as part of her housing/stipend package. For tax purposes, the rent and utilities at 5 Junction Street are paid directly by the church. Additionally, the pastor receives a current amount (as of October 1) of \$30.00 per week, with quarterly \$5.00 additional increments planned, until such time as the pastor is receiving \$100.00 weekly. At the end of fiscal 1978-79, Rev. Ragona will be receiving \$50.00 weekly with rent and utilities paid additionally. Also, since the church had a considerable surplus at the end of the first year, the Board voted to pay the pastor's tuition (one half) at Rhode Island College. The pastor's health insurance was also paid through the group plan at Rhode Island College, covering her until September 1979. Elizabeth's health care is covered through the Providence Central Health Center and through an accident policy at school. All conference travel and registrations are covered by the church, including attendance at COWIM this October.

By careful fiscal management, slow steady growth, and unwillingness to expand our indebtedness beyond our ability to pay, Metropolitan Community Church of Providence has enlarged its membership to 46, lost 3 members (one moved to another city, two withdrew), and has increased its program, without incurring any debts which cannot be immediately paid.

Program: Our current program includes Sunday Services at 134 Mathewson Street (Mathewson Street United Methodist Church), a Tuesday rap group (25-35 attending), a monthly potluck or other social activity (party, dinner, hayride, picnic, etc.), a monthly fund-raising event -- currently a gay film series -- and a weekly Bible Study group on Thursday.

Personnel: We are served by a licensed minister of the Fellowship, Rev. Marge Ragona, who has been with us since October of 1976 (exactly one year). Rev. Ragona has applied and been accepted as an ordination candidate for 1979. Our Board of Directors consists of two appointed members (Clerk and Treasurer) and three elected members. Additionally we are served by two deacon-candidates (involved in the help to the needy, homeless, indigent or ex-offenders), and five exhorter candidates -- three of whom served in that capacity under Rev. Joseph Gilbert, and one exhorter-candidate previously from the New York church. Three of the exhorter-candidates are involved in the Fellowship's Prison Ministry, two of the exhorter-candidates work with our Director of Christian Education to staff our Sunday School which currently numbers 15 children of gay parents. One exhorter works as administrative assistant to the pastor, additionally involving himself in community outreach as well. The other exhorter-candidate is working toward beginning outreach to a group in Maine, her home state. All of the exhorter-candidates are enrolled in local colleges taking undergraduate work, as well as taking part in the weekly Bible Study and a one-hour Exhorter training session every Saturday. One exhorter-candidate will receive her Associate in Arts degree this summer.

Community Outreach: Our church is a member organization of the Gay Community Services of Rhode Island, which maintains a referral service to counselors and staffs the Gay Helpline. All exhorters must work the helpline at least twice a month. We are part of the Gay Political Caucus, and the Rhode Island Affiliate of the National Gay Task Force.

Ecumenical Relations: We are an affiliate member of the Rhode Island Council of Churches, and work on programs sponsored by the Council, including being part of a television program dealing with the gay involvement in the Hitler holocaust.

Additionally, Rev. Ragona is a newly appointed chaplain at Rhode Island School of Design, a part of the Brown University complex. She also serves as consultant to the Rhode Island College Sexual Information and Referral Service.

We have a program, facilities, and personnel structure which any chartered church would be proud of. We are financially stable, have been served for a year by our pastor, and have shown steady growth in our membership during that year. We earnestly solicit your support in our attempt to regain our charter, and solicit your prayers during the meeting to be held October 7th by the Board of Home Missions.

Metropolitan Community Church of
Providence, Rhode Island

Enc: Financial Report
Membership List

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

Membership List

Walter F. Laurie
Susan G. Daum
William J. Memcer
Ernest Bourgeois
Margaret Norrington
Paul Paoletti
Harry A. Payne
Tony Masiello
Mary Comerford (Board Member)
Barbara L. Kendall
Barbara Brites
Kathy Uhler
Thomas Evans (Board Member)
Russell Coates
Concetta DiCenzo
Belle Pellegrino (Board Member)
Roy K. Berkett, Sr.
Donald Poisson
Mark Antony Krakowski
Elizabeth Ragona
Sally Gabb (Clerk)
Arlene Roy
Edith Maillet

Lynn Buskey
Pat Ryan
Joseph Tucker
Barry Jones-Henry
George Hodgdon
Rev. Jody Stiles
David Giddings
Michael O'Malley
Dennis Sousa (Treasurer)
Margie McNeil
Bernadette Pellegrino
Rev. Michael Nordstrom
Pat Appleby
Mary Vitarelli
Phillip Eberle
Virginia Lee Hill
Stephanie Judd
William Counts (Asst. Treasurer)
Evelyn Valley
Georgye A. Swallow
Robert Ferrucci
Raymond L. Lasto, Jr.
Rev. Marge Ragona

There are 15 children active in our Sunday School, many of them old enough to be church members, however, only one of the above names is that of a child, Elizabeth Ragona, who was originally accepted into membership at MCC New York, and has been a member of MCC Boston as well.

Metropolitan Community Church of

Providence, R. I.

Financial Statement - October, 1977 - Sept. 30, 1978

	Sun. of Mo.	October	November	December	January
Income					
Tithes & Offerings	1	90 ⁸⁷	281 ¹⁰	71 ⁵⁴	97 ⁹¹
	2	89 ³¹	112 ⁷³	119 ³⁵	183 ¹⁵
	3	66 ⁴³	174 ⁵⁶	122 ²³	94 ⁸⁵
	4	113 ⁶⁴	114 ³⁸	95 ¹⁶	125 ²⁵
	5	64 ⁵⁵			139 ⁶⁹
Bookstore				47 ⁸⁷	
Crosses					
Designated Offerings				2 ⁰⁰	
Holy Unions					
Fund Raising					
R.I. Day Symposium				5 ⁰⁰	
Raffles				166 ⁰⁰	
Film - Gpy U.S.A.					
flea Market					
Reimbursements					25
Total Income Year. <u>\$7870.85</u>		424 ⁸⁰	682 ⁹⁷	629 ¹⁵	666 ⁶⁵
Pastoral Expense					
Stipend					50 ⁰⁰
Rent - 5 Junction St.		155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰
Discretionary Fund			10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰
Pastor's Health Insurance					
Tuition					
Utilities - Prov. Gas			35 ⁹⁸		91 ⁸⁵
Narragansett Electric					
Conferences					
N.E. District					10 ⁰⁰
Eastern Min. - Fare					
Housing -					
Total Pastoral Expense <u>\$4122.66</u>		155 ⁰⁰	200 ⁹⁸	165 ⁰⁰	316 ⁸⁵
Mean Income - Monthly		666 ⁶⁵			
Average Income - "		649 ⁰⁷			
Mean Pastoral Expense - "		361 ⁴⁷			
Average Pastoral Expense - "		343 ⁶⁶			
Pastor's Percentage of Income		54 ⁰ %			

* Extra Service - Tracy Perry
 ** Budgeted - not spent yet
 *** Jean Bradley's reimbursement
 **** 1977 Bilingual
 1st E. Min. Conference

$$\begin{array}{r}
 35 \\
 \underline{4} \\
 140
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{r}
 35 \\
 \underline{3} \\
 105
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{r}
 35 \\
 \underline{3.5} \\
 116.5 \\
 \underline{105} \\
 121.5
 \end{array}$$

yrly av = ± 3.50 p.w. per member (35) - pledges etc
 yrly av = 4.00 p.w. " " - mil & raisers

$$\begin{array}{r}
 150 \\
 \underline{3.5} \\
 1750 \\
 \underline{450} \\
 525.00
 \end{array}$$

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
1	118 ³⁰	109 ²⁸	51 ⁴⁷	163 ⁸⁰	58 ⁰⁰	70 ⁰⁸	158 ⁶²	127 ²⁰
2	17⁶³	120 ⁵⁰	72 ⁷⁰	148 ⁴¹	145 ⁴³	78 ¹⁸	114 ⁹¹	263 ⁵⁶
3	167 ²⁴	149 ⁸⁴	73 ⁰⁰	96 ⁸⁶	145 ⁰⁷	64 ⁰⁰ *	154 ⁵³	169 ⁰⁰
4	199 ⁵³	63 ⁴³	92 ⁷⁰	96 ⁹⁷	126 ¹⁶	113 ⁰⁵	91 ⁷⁶	227 ⁵⁴
5	100 ⁰⁰		160 ⁷⁰	66 ¹⁶		64 ²⁰	68 ⁸⁹	
6								
7		24 ⁰⁰	36 ⁰⁰	66 ⁰⁰		9 ⁹⁹	18 ⁰⁰	
8	50 ⁰⁰		20 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰		100 ⁰⁰		10 ⁰⁰
9								
10								
11								
12				45 ⁵⁰				
13				20 ⁰⁰	364 ⁰⁰			
14								154 ⁵⁰
15								107 ²⁶
16	48⁰⁰		55 ⁰⁰					
17								
18								
19								
20	700 ²⁰	487 ⁰⁶	561 ⁵¹	714 ⁰⁰	838 ⁶⁶	499 ⁰⁰	606 ²³	1059 ⁰⁶
21								
22	40 ⁰⁰	40 ⁰⁰	80 ⁰⁰	100 ⁰⁰	100 ⁰⁰	125 ⁰⁰	125 ⁰⁰	100 ⁰⁰
23	155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰	155 ⁰⁰
24	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰
25								33 ⁰⁰
26								176 ⁰⁰
27	107 ¹⁵	126 ⁹⁴	116 ⁴⁷	116 ⁴⁷	48 ⁰⁰	38 ²⁴	77 ¹¹ **	(77 ¹¹)
28				74 ⁰⁰	24 ⁰⁰	35 ⁶⁰	35 ⁰⁰ **	(35 ⁰⁰)
29								
30				10 ⁰⁰				
31	129 ⁰⁰							
32	96⁰⁰							
33								
34								
35	415 ⁰⁰	331 ⁹⁴	361 ⁰⁰	487 ⁴⁹	337 ⁰⁰	363 ⁸⁴	402 ¹¹	586 ⁰⁰
36								
37								
38	Balance in checkbook 9/30/77 - \$38 ⁰⁰							
39								
40								

		1	2	3	4
		October	November	December	January
Expenses					
Rent - Mathewson Methodist Church		60 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰	60 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰
Tithes - UFMCC		35 ²⁷	42 ⁴⁷	69 ²⁵	90 ⁸³
NED		10 ⁰⁰	8 ⁵⁰	13 ⁴⁸	10 ⁰⁰
Back Tithes - UFMCC			(May) 28 ⁰⁷	(June) 37 ⁷¹	(July) 35 ⁷⁵
NED			5 ⁶⁷	7 ⁵⁴	7 ⁰⁵
Telephone - Deposit		50 ⁰⁰			
Monthly Service				28 ⁰⁶	43 ⁷⁰
Rev. J. Herbert's hire		25 ⁰⁰	90 ³⁹		
Guest Preachers					Fr. Gordon Chausson 25 ⁰⁰
Altar Supplies					
Office Expense -					
Honorary				16 ²⁵	
Printing					
Publicity - GCN Ad.				18 ⁷⁵	
Education Expense					
Postage + P.O. Box				15 ⁰⁰	
Bank Charge					
UFMCC Invoices				1 ⁷⁵	2 ⁰⁰
Contribution - Dignity			16 ⁰⁰		
Fund Raising Expenses					
Sodas - RI Symposium					
Dorowai's Bookstore				30 ⁵⁹	
Troy Perry Dinner - Food + Supplies					
Fare - Troy Perry (To Me th Boston)					
Raffle Prizes					
Crosses				30 ⁰⁰	
Film Rental - Day USA					
Shipping Charges - "					
Total Expenses for Year - \$3353.92		180 ⁴⁷	266 ⁰⁵	350 ⁰⁰	139 ³³
Mean Expenses per Month		\$260 ⁶⁴	With pastor's Expense		622 ⁰⁰
Average Expenses per "		270 ²⁴	"	"	614 ³⁰

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
1	60 ⁰⁰	60 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰	60 ⁰⁰	60 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰
2								
3	64 ¹⁸	59 ⁸⁵	44 ³⁵	45 ³³	46 ⁶⁹	87 ⁸⁹	51 ⁷⁵	58 ⁸⁷
4	12 ⁸³	12 ⁰⁶	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	10 ⁰⁰	17 ⁵⁷	10 ³⁵	11 ⁸⁰
5								
6		(Short) 13 ⁹⁰						
7								
8								
9		58 ²³	99 ⁰⁸	37 ⁷³	36 ⁰⁰	30 ⁰⁰	40 ⁰⁰	75 ⁰⁰
10								
11	Wardbury 25 ⁰⁰			Wilmington 15 ⁰⁰	Waltham 25 ⁰⁰			Stam. Harris 25 ⁰⁰
12				6 ⁰⁰				
13								
14						26 ²³		
15					2 ²⁸	7 ⁵⁰		19 ²⁰
16				6 ⁹⁰	11 ⁰⁰	17 ⁸⁰		
17	15 ⁰⁰							40 ⁰⁰
18								
19								
20		6 ⁰⁰		6 ¹¹	12 ⁰⁶	23 ⁰⁰		4 ⁸⁰
21				1 ⁰⁰				
22	1 ¹⁰	0 ⁶⁰				15 ⁰⁰		
23								
24								
25								
26		20 ⁰⁰						
27								
28								
29							117 ⁰⁰	
30							50 ⁰⁰	
31					192 ⁰⁰			
32					36 ⁰⁰			
33								109 ⁸²
34								10 ⁸⁰
35								
36	153 ¹¹	260 ⁶⁴	229 ⁴³	188 ⁰⁷	431 ¹³	302 ⁸⁹	212 ¹⁰	421 ⁵⁷

Income Excess over Expense - \$44.54
Average " " 34.77
(Monthly)

Balance in checkbook
10/1/78 \$340.31

Communion Song (All clergy move to positions on either side of the altar.)

CELE BRANT: During the years of his ministry, Jesus called people from all walks of life and all parts of the world to be a part of his community. They came from---(we remember the towns and villages where Jesus' first followers came from).

DEACON: So, too, Christ calls us together from many places to be part of this Christian community. We are called from---(we shout out our towns and cities for all to hear).

C: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

C: Lift up your hearts.

P: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

C: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

P: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.

C: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth:(Preface) Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

ALL: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT,
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.

BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.

(The people may sit or kneel.)

C: We have come to this time and place to share in Christian love the feast Christ asked us to celebrate.

For on the night of that last Passover, Jesus gathered with the members of his community, those called apostles, and other close friends--Martha and Mary of Bethany, Mary the Magdalin, and his mother--to celebrate the feast. Before the meal he took the bread in his hands, and in the tradition of the Jewish ritual, they blessed it together.

ALL: BLESSED ARE YOU, O LORD OUR GOD, CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE. YOU HAVE STRENGTHENED AND SUSTAINED US AND ENABLED US TO CELEBRATE THIS DAY. BLESSED ARE YOU, O GOD, CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE. YOU HAVE COMMANDED US TO EAT THE UNLEAVEN BREAD.

C: Having blessed the bread, he broke it and passed it among his friends with these words:

MINISTERS: "TAKE, EAT. THIS IS MY BODY, NO LONGER THE BREAD OF AFFLICTION, BUT THE BREAD OF LIFE. IT IS BROKEN FOR YOU AND FOR ALL PEOPLE. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME." (Pause.)

C: After the meal, Jesus lifted the cup and they spoke the blessing together:

ALL: BLESSED ARE YOU, LORD GOD, CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE. YOU CREATED THE FRUIT OF THE VINE AND COMMANDED US TO DRINK THE PASSOVER CUP.

C: After the cup was blessed, he passed it among his friends saying:

MINISTERS: "DRINK THIS, ALL OF YOU. THIS IS MY BLOOD. NO LONGER THE DREGS OF BITTERNESS, BUT THE CUP OF SALVATION. A NEW AGREEMENT FOR THE RECONCILIATION OF ALL HUMANKIND. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME." HOLY GOD, LET YOUR SPIRIT COME UPON THESE GIFTS + TO MAKE THEM HOLY SO THAT THEY MAY BECOME FOR US THE BODY AND BLOOD OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

C: And send your Spirit + upon these, your servants. That as we share in this feast we may be renewed to life in all its fullness.

ALL: COME CREATOR SPIRIT. KINDLE ANEW YOUR FLAME WITHIN.

RECREATE EACH OF US INTO THE IMAGE OF THE CHRIST.

COME, LORD JESUS, REIGN WITHIN OUR HEARTS.

AMEN, ALLELUIA.

C: The gifts of God for the people of God.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

1. The first thing we should do is to make a list of the things we need.

2. Next, we should go to the store and buy the things we need. We should also make sure we have enough money to buy everything we need.

3. After we have bought the things we need, we should go home and put them away. We should also make sure we have enough food to eat.

4. Finally, we should go to bed and get a good night's sleep. We should also make sure we have enough clothes to wear.

5. The last thing we should do is to check our list and make sure we have everything we need. We should also make sure we have enough money to buy everything we need.

6. Now we can go to the store and buy the things we need. We should also make sure we have enough money to buy everything we need.

7. After we have bought the things we need, we should go home and put them away. We should also make sure we have enough food to eat.

8. Finally, we should go to bed and get a good night's sleep. We should also make sure we have enough clothes to wear.

9. The last thing we should do is to check our list and make sure we have everything we need. We should also make sure we have enough money to buy everything we need.

10. Now we can go to the store and buy the things we need. We should also make sure we have enough money to buy everything we need.

11. After we have bought the things we need, we should go home and put them away. We should also make sure we have enough food to eat.

12. Finally, we should go to bed and get a good night's sleep. We should also make sure we have enough clothes to wear.

13. The last thing we should do is to check our list and make sure we have everything we need. We should also make sure we have enough money to buy everything we need.

14. Now we can go to the store and buy the things we need. We should also make sure we have enough money to buy everything we need.

15. After we have bought the things we need, we should go home and put them away. We should also make sure we have enough food to eat.

16. Finally, we should go to bed and get a good night's sleep. We should also make sure we have enough clothes to wear.

Saved by Grace

Shapolsky
P. O. Box 204
Dayton, Ohio
45401
1977



LOVE COVERETH
A MULTITUDE
OF SINS.

1 WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER

1. When the trumpet of the Lord
shall sound
And time shall be no more,
And the morning breaks, eternal
bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall
gather
Over on the other shore,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.

Chorus: When the roll is called
up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.

2. On that bright and cloudless
morning
When the dead in Christ shall
rise
And the glory of the Resurrection
share;
When God's chosen ones shall
gather
To their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.

2 AT THE CROSS

1. Alas, and did my Saviour
bleed
And did my Sovereign die?
Did Christ bend low that sacred
head
For such a worm as I?

Chorus: At the cross, at the
cross, where I first saw the
light,
And the burden of my heart rolled
away;
It was there by faith, I received
my sight
And now I am happy all the day!

2. Was it for crimes that I have
done,
Christ groaned upon that tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown
And love beyond degree.

3. Well did the sun in darkness
hide
And shut its glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died,
For our, the creatures, sin.

3 WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear;
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer.
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

2. Have we trials and tribulations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Can we find a friend so faithful
Who will all our sorrows bear?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our Refuge;
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Do your friends despise, forsake
you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
Christ will comfort and protect
you;
You will find a solace there.

4 TELL IT TO JESUS

1. Are you weary, are you heavy-
hearted?
Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus;
Are you grieving over joys departed?
Tell it to Jesus alone.

Chorus: Tell it to Jesus, tell it
to Jesus;
Christ is a Friend that's well-known;
There's no love that's truer from
another -
Tell it to Jesus alone.

2. Do you fear the gath'ring clouds
of sorrow?
Tell it to Jesus, Tell it to Jesus;
Are you anxious what shall be
tomorrow?
Tell it to Jesus alone.

20 EVERY TIME I FEEL
THE SPIRIT
Key: D, Begin: high D

Chorus: Every time I feel the
Spirit,
Movin' in my heart, I will pray;
Every time I feel the Spirit
Movin' in my heart, I will pray.

1. Oh, I have sorrow and I have
woe,
And I have heartache here below;
But Jesus leads me, lifts every
care
And I can see God everywhere.
2. When in the valley I find my
path
And storms assail me with all their
wrath,
Then stirs the Spirit within my
soul,
I place it all in God's control.
3. When Satan tempts me upon the
mount
And all earth's treasures I can
count,
I turn instead to my Saviour's face
And feel the Spirit fill this
place.

31 HEAVENLY SUNSHINE
Key: G, Begin: high D

Heavenly sunshine, heavenly
sunshine,
Flooding my soul with glory
divine;
Heavenly sunshine, heavenly
sunshine,
Hallelujah, Jesus is mine!

29 THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION
Key: Eb, Begin: G

1. The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ our Lord;
We are a new creation
By water and the word.
From heaven Christ descended
To hang upon the tree,
For all our strife Christ suffered,
To save and set us free.
2. Elect from every nation,
Yet one around the earth;
Our charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
We share one holy blessing,
Partake one holy food,
Toward one hope we are pressing
With heavenly grace endued.
3. We on this earth have union
With God the Three in One,
And share a sweet Communion
With those whose rest is won;
Lord, give us of their vision
And give us grace that we,
Like them, may do Your mission,
Then come to dwell with Thee.

65 LET'S TALK ABOUT JESUS
Key: Ab, Begin: high C

Let's talk about Jesus,
the King of Kings to be,
The Lord of Lords supreme
through all eternity,
The great I Am, the Way,
the Truth, the Life, the Door -
Let's talk about Jesus
more and more.

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Northeast District Conference

MCC HISPANA

Saturday Evening Worship Service

+Processional: Hymn "Onward Christian Soldier"

Singspiration: MCC A & O

Call to Worship: MCC SYRACUSE

Welcome & announcement: Rev. José L. Mojica

Mass Choir: Emmett Watkins

+Scripture Reading: Ricardo Zurita MCC Hispana

Solo: Mario Román MCC Hispana

Sermon: Rev. Edward Hougen MCC BOSTON

+Community Prayer: Allan La Payover MCC NY

Offering: Rev. Marge Ragona MCC PROVIDENCE

+Doxology: Ken Theriault MCC NEW HAVEN

+Confesion: Steve La Fever MCC HARTFORD

+Absolution: Rev. Dee Jackson MCC A & O

Communion: Rev. Sherley Hamilton - Rev.

Edward Hougen - Rev. Karen Zigler

+Benediction: Rev. José L. Mojica MCC HISPANA

+Recessional: Hymn "Church One Fundation"

+ People stand

Rev. Hamilton - MCC WORCESTER

Rev. Zigler - MCC NY

Ushers= The District deacons

Communion Helpers= Exhorters

0--+0--+0--+0+- = 0 = -+0+-0+-0+0--+0+-0+-0

We like to hear any comment that you may have about the Conference, worship services, food, hospitality or about anything else.

Please answer these questions and give it to an usher or mail it to: MCC Hispana Box 357 Village Station, NYC, NY 10014.

-
1. Did you learn something new in the Conference?
 2. Do you now know how to use whatever you have to help the Church to grow?
 3. How did you find the workshop? the food? the services? the business meeting?
Workshop:
Food:
Services:
Business meeting:
 4. Do you have any suggestion for the next District Conference?

OPTIONAL

_____ name _____

_____ MCC _____



*"For by grace are ye saved through
faith; and that not of yourselves: it
is the gift of God: Not of works,
lest any man should boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9*

The Grace of God

While thinking on the "Grace of God"
And what it did for me,
A few reflections came my way
This blessed truth to see.

"G" stands for God's Eternal Gift
That's offered free to all;
He'll not reject one single soul
Who in contrition calls.

"R" stands for Riches that we find
That none can take away;
Though banks may fail; inflations come,
Our riches always stay.

"A" stands for the Atoning One
Who died my sins to bear
That I might be a Child of God,
And all His blessings share.

"C" stands for Christ who paid the price,
My sinful soul reclaimed.
And now, today, I've peace and joy
For which I'm unashamed.

"E" stands for the Expense that grace
demanded of God's Son,
But praise the Lord the debt's now paid
For you, and everyone.

When someone asks: "What is God's Grace?"
Do not be in suspense;
Just answer them in five short words:
"God's Riches at Christ's Expense."

NET

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, February 3, 1979 - MCC Hispana Conference

A. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:25 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, Park Av. and 21st St., New York, NY, by Rev. Edward Hougen, district coordinator and moderator of the meeting. All lay delegates and alternate lay delegates were requested to register with the district secretary. The meeting was opened with prayer, and then the moderator announced that there were copies of the current treasurer's report on the table before him for those who wanted them.

B. Seating of Delegates

1. Report on payment of district tithes - (Given earlier in the conference)

2. Secretary's roll of registered delegates

From Alpha and Omega MCC.....Rev. Dee Jackson.....Ms. Alexis Kane
From MCC Boston.....Rev. Edward Hougen*.....Mr. Bobby Stevens
From MCC Hartford.....Mr. Steve LaFevre..... --
From MCC Hispana.....Rev. José Mojica.....Mr. Paul Paoletti
From MCC New Haven.....Mr. Ken Theriault..... --
From MCC New York.....Rev. Karen Ziegler.....Ms. Ellen Pollack
From MCC Providence.....Rev. Marge Ragona.....Mr. Ernest Bourgeois
Rev. Michael Nordstrom
From MCC Syracuse.....Rev. Bob Freeman-Jones.....Mr. Michael Hayden
From MCC Worcester.....Rev. Shelley Hamilton**.....Mr. Kenneth Barr
Seated as district officers: Mr. Bruce Gerig, district secretary; Ms. Gloria Audet,
district treasurer; and Ms. Belle Pellegrino, lay representative to the Northeast
District Board of Home Missions.

Total number of delegates: 20

* - District coordinator, ** - Assistant district coordinator.

C. Church Reports

1. MCC Worcester - Mr. Ken Barr announced that MCC Worcester had put Rev. Hamilton on full-time and that the congregation was making a pledging goal that it had set of \$13,000/yr. The church is beginning to work for applying for its charter.
2. MCC Syracuse - Rev. Bob Freeman-Jones remarked that his congregation was showing a slow, steady growth. He announced that in August, 1979, he would be leaving Syracuse and so a new worship coordinator would need to be appointed for the church.
3. MCC Providence - Ms. Belle Pellegrino said that MCC in Providence was growing, reaching out into the community, and doing just fine.
4. MCC New York - Ms. Ellen Pollack commented that her congregation was actively going about the business of trying to find a new pastor, and that the Board of Directors would be meeting shortly with three candidates. The gay community center that the church maintains continues to serve the gay population of the city.
5. MCC New Haven - Mr. Ken Theriault remarked that he was happy to have Gloria Audet helping out as co-worship coordinator in MCC New Haven.
6. MCC Hispana - Mr. José Cruz explained that MCC Hispana was working on opening up a bar ministry to increase its contact with the gay Spanish community. The church has also started a Sunday school and attendance at the charismatic service is growing.

7. MCC Hartford - (No report was given.)
8. MCC Boston - Mr. Bobby Stevens reported that the church had held some retreats and had begun a Bible study class. The group was working hard on fund-raising in the church to try to wipe out a deficit that has occurred. Rev. Ann Montague has left Boston to return to Oregon.
9. Alpha and Omega MCC - Ms. Alexis Kane announced that the Lord has opened up the way for Alpha and Omega to begin a ministry on Fire Island during the coming summer and also to begin holding services regularly at Sloane House, the 14th St. YMCA, where a lot of ex-offenders are housed.

D. Preliminary Reports

1. District secretary's minutes for the last business meeting - A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept as written the secretary's minutes for the Northeast District business meeting held October 21, 1978, in Providence.
2. District coordinator's report - Rev. Edward Hougen reported that during the last quarter he met with a group from MCC Hispana in Boston to plan for this conference; he also met with ministers in Providence, preached in a service at MCC Syracuse, and visited MCC Hartford.

E. Explanation of Ministerial Credentialing Changes

1. The new District Review Committee - The moderator said that there were a number of procedural changes that the Standards Subcommittee of the UFMCC Ministerial Credentials and Affairs Committee (MCAC) had recently put into effect, applying to licensing and relicensing in the Fellowship. One change involves the makeup of the District Review Committee (DRC) which now includes two pastors from the district (Rev. Edward Hougen and Rev. Dee Jackson) and one member from the MCAC (Rev. Elder John Gill, from MCC Ft. Lauderdale).
2. Procedures for initial licensing - The moderator explained that there were two procedural changes for this: (a) Persons applying are now required to pass an exam covering the areas of Bible, theology, church history, and church polity. These exams will be administered in two centers in the Northeast District, in Brooklyn and in Boston, on March 30-31, 1979. (b) A candidate may appear before the DRC to apply for licensing, with or without the approval of her or his pastor or church board.
3. Procedures for relicensing - If the majority of members on the DRC vote favorably on a minister, he or she will be relicensed. An unfavorable vote may be appealed for review by the Fellowship's MCAC.
4. Procedures for ordination - Ordination papers should be sent directly to the MCAC. The moderator said that the deadline for submission of these materials was 30 days prior to General Conference, but Ken Barr read from a report that mentioned a deadline date of three months prior to General Conference (May 13, 1979). The moderator said that he would check into this matter for clarification. He noted that a candidate could probably receive an extension of time, if needed, although the chairperson of the MCAC is very difficult to reach by phone.
5. Scheduling of candidates - The moderator asked Rev. Dee Jackson to read the schedule

that had been set up for the Northeast DRC to meet with candidates for licensing and relicensing, on Friday, May 18, in Syracuse:

10:30 a.m. - Ms. Gloria Audet	2:30 p.m. - Rev. Shelley Hamilton
11:30 a.m. - Mr. Bill Smith	3:00 p.m. - Mr. Steve LaFevre
12:30 p.m. - (Lunch break)	4:00 p.m. - Rev. Karen Ziegler
1:30 p.m. - Rev. Marge Ragona	4:30 p.m. - Rev. Bob Freeman-Jones
2:00 p.m. - Rev. Michael Nordstrom	

All materials relating to licensing should be in the hands of the DRC members by April 23.

F. New Business

1. Revision of the NED budget - The moderator commented that to fly Rev. Elder John Gill from Fr. Lauderdale to Syracuse for the DRC meeting would cost c.\$221 and that the Northeast District was responsible for providing for this expense. He offered a motion that a sum not to exceed \$250 be allocated from the district's working fund to provide for the transportation of Rev. Elder Gill to this meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The moderator noted that perhaps the district should raise the question with the Fellowship as to whether or not districts should be asked to carry such large expenses without prior inquiry as to whether they are able to do so. He noted that this expense represents 13% of our total annual budget for this year. A motion was made and passed that "the district coordinator should relay to the Board of Elders that we as a district feel that this expense is an unfair burden imposed upon us without any inquiry having been made as to our ability to pay for such a sum." The motion passed unanimously.

Rev. Ragona mentioned that while there was a member of the MCAC located closer to us, Rev. Roy Birchard had been scheduled to go elsewhere. It is not always possible for the closest member of this committee to come into our district to serve on the District Review Committee.

2. Acknowledgement of our contribution to the Washington Office - The moderator read a letter (See Appendix A) sent to him from Mr. Adam DeBaugh in which he thanks the Northeast District for their \$100 sent to the UFMCC Washington Office.
3. Dates for the Syracuse district conference - The moderator suggested that the best dates for the next district conference would be Friday-Saturday, May 18-19. Someone suggested that the conference be scheduled during the Memorial Day weekend but the moderator replied that Rev. Elder Gill was not free that weekend and also that driving would be very dangerous. A motion to accept May 18-19 weekend for the next district conference in Syracuse was passed unanimously.
4. Extending the Syracuse conference over onto Sunday - A question was raised about the feasibility of having some of the conference on Sunday, May 20. Rev. Ragona said that she felt that by trying to hold everything on Friday and Saturday, the scheduling of a district conference had gotten so tight that people did not have any time just to interact one with another, to fellowship. "We are running so much, trying to get our business done, that we don't have time just to sing songs and share our experiences." She said it is good for a minister to be able to leave the home worship service in the hands of others once in a while and come to these district conferences to get renewed and recharged. The moderator said that he felt it was the consensus of the group that in Syracuse we have a more leisurely conference schedule, extending it over onto Sunday. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Questionnaire for the Syracuse conference - Rev. Bob Freeman-Jones said that he

wished to comment that by including the question "Won't all that 'speaking in tongues and jumping around' turn people off?" on the Syracuse questionnaire he did not mean to imply any criticism of the charismatic movement.

6. District treasurer's report - A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept the treasurer's report for the last quarter (10/20/78 - 2/4/79, See Appendix B).
7. Report from the Lay Council (Office of Lay Concerns) - Ms. Belle Pellegrino reported that a number of resolutions and actions had been passed by the Lay Council for presentation to the floor:
 - a. Provision for travel expenses for the lay representative - Ms. Pellegrino presented a resolution stating: "It is recommended that travel expenses be provided from the district's escrow fund for the lay representative to visit churches in the district." The moderator asked if she would accept a friendly amendment to change "escrow fund" to "working fund", because the former is used primarily for church extension work rather than for operating expenses. The friendly amendment was accepted. The moderator said he felt funds could be provided unless the expenses were too great, and the lay representative said that what she wanted was to get around to all of the churches over a period of time. The resolution passed with a few "nays."
 - b. Provision for the lay representative to attend General Conference - The lay rep reported that the Lay Council had discussed how it could provide for her to get to General Conference this summer in Los Angeles, but that she had replied that she would be present as a delegate from MCC Providence. The moderator said that he did not see how the district could provide for travel expense for the district lay rep to attend the general conferences, in any case.
 - c. Request for a two-hour meeting period at the Syracuse conference - Ms. Pellegrino noted that the lay council is interested in discussing various proposed Fellowship By-Laws revisions and therefore requests that it be scheduled a two-hour period of time at the next district conference. The moderator stated that the deadline for submitting By-Laws revisions, March 31, 1979, would be passed; but the lay rep replied that this meeting was called for discussion and dissemination of information. The moderator agreed to schedule two hours at Syracuse.
 - d. Election of a Lay Council secretary - The lay representative reported that the lay council had passed this resolution: "The Lay Council shall elect a secretary and the term for this office shall run for two years, concurrent with the term of the Lay Representative and with the present term ending in February, 1980." She said that Bruce Gerig had been elected lay council secretary by acclamation. The whole report was accepted unanimously by the session.
8. Ministry of MCC Hispana in Latin America - The moderator noted that we as a district are responsible for sponsoring new works. The Universal Fellowship has truly become an international phenomenon, spreading into all parts of the world; however, very little money is available on the Fellowship level for this. A specific cash offering is supposed to be taken throughout the Fellowship every February for world church extension but very few churches in the Northeast District actually take such an offering. Rev. Hougen announced that MCC Hispana is interested in trying to open up some MCC groups among Spanish-speaking peoples in Latin America, possibly in Mexico City, Guayaquil (Ecuador), San Juan, Bogotá, and Buenos Aires. A plane ticket for Rev. José Mojica to visit and investigate these areas would cost c. \$1,000. The Board of Home Missions has voted to provide for \$500 for this outreach from district funds, and the moderator hoped that he could challenge the individual churches in the district to collect this special church world extension offering. If we do so, the Fellowship will then be able to help out with this missionary effort also.
9. Lay representative elected to the UFMCC Commission on Government Structures and

and Systems - The moderator announced that Don Babets had resigned, elected to this position on October 21, 1978; and he recommended that Lupe Martinez (Alpha and Omega MCC), who was alternate representative, become the new lay representative to this commission. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Alternate lay representative needed for the UFMCC Commission on Government Structures and Systems - The moderator asked for nominations to fill this post and none were given. Rev. Hougren then said he would table the matter until the next district business meeting.

G. Proposed UFMCC By-Law Changes

1. Proposed changes on doctrine and the sacraments - Rev. Marge Ragone brought a number of resolutions for by-law changes which the Women's Task Force had drawn up and which it hoped the district would recommend to the UFMCC By-Laws Committee. She explained that the rationale for these was to bring the Fellowship By-Laws into accord with resolutions that had been passed at the 1976 General Conference. She said she felt that in MCC we must continue to change our language so that it is inclusive of both sexes. The recommended changes were (Text to be changed is lined out below and the new proposed text is placed in parentheses.):
 - a. Article III,A - "Christianity is the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and is the religion set forth in the scriptures. ~~The Old Testament foretells him; the New Testament presents him; and the Christian Church proclaims him in every age and in every land.~~ (The Christ is foretold in the Old Testament, presented in the New Testament, and proclaimed by the Christian church in every age and in every land.)" - Passed unanimously.
 - b. Article III,A,1 - "In (in) one triune God, of one substance, in the persons of the Father; ~~Son; and Holy Spirit;~~ (Parent of all creation, the Christ and the Holy Spirit,) omnipotent, omnipresent and omniscient, God being the Creator of all, the Prime Mover and Spirit of the Universe." - Passed unanimously.
 - c. Article III,A,3 - "That Jesus. . . The (the) Christ. . . historically recorded as living some 2,000 years before ~~this writing; is the Father's most divine Son; as well as being the Son of Man; born of Woman; and that by total subservience to God; the Father;~~ (before this writing is God incarnate, being one born of humanity, fully God and fully human, and that by being one with the will of God,) Jesus has demonstrated once and forever that all people are likewise Children of God, being spiritually made in God's image." - Passed unanimously.
 - d. Article III,A,6 - "We are saved from loneliness, despair and degradation through God's gift of grace, as was declared by our Master (Redeemer)." . . . - Passed unanimously.
 - e. Article III,B,2 - "HOLY COMMUNION is the partaking of blessed bread and wine in accordance with ~~our Lord's~~ (Jesus') words: 'This is my body. . . this is my blood.' (Matthew 26:26-28)" - Passed unanimously.
 - f. Article III,B,2 (cont.) - "All who believe, confess, repent and seek God's love through Christ, after examining their own consciences, may freely participate in the communal meal, signifying their desire to be received into ~~his fellowship; to be saved by his sacrifice;~~ (community with God, to be saved by Christ's divine sacrifice,) to participate in ~~his~~ (Christ's) resurrection, and to commit their lives anew to ~~his~~ (Christian) service." - Passed unanimously.
- The moderator asked the district secretary to send a copy of the above proposed by-law changes to the Board of Elders prior to March 31, 1979, asking if it would like co-sponsor them.
2. Proposed change on the assistant district coordinator - Ken Barr (MCC Worcester) proposed that a new sentence be inserted (see parentheses below) in Article V,C,3 so that the whole paragraph would read: "DISTRICT BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS: This board

shall be comprised of all the pastors of all chartered churches within the District as well as the elected representative(s) to the Office of Lay Concerns. (An Assistant District Coordinator shall be a voting member of the Board of Home Missions by virtue of his/her office.) It shall be the function of this board to direct the establishment, life and growth of study groups and missions." He explained that the rationale behind this: Although the assistant district coordinator is elected by the clergy and lay representatives of the district to a district-wide office, this office was created since the Fellowship By-Laws were written, and provision for this office is not included in the current By-Laws. He noted that most districts had not had this problem because their assistant district coordinator had always been affiliated with a chartered church. However, the assistant district coordinator should be assured a voting position on the district board by fact of her/his being assistant district coordinator. Rev. Hougen also said that some districts have lay people who serve as assistant district coordinators, which relate to this matter. A motion to accept and send this suggested change to the UFMCC By-Laws Committee was passed unanimously.

3. Proposed change that all ministers of a district be on the Board of Home Missions - Rev. Michael Nordstrom offered a by-law change that all ministers of the district be voting members of the Board of Home Missions, but the moderator explained that this would be difficult since this board votes on the status changes on churches within the district. With such a change, some ministers might be voting on their own churches.
 4. Proposed changes in exhorter training and administration - Rev. Marge Ragona said that everyone should become acquainted, if not already, with the by-law changes being proposed by the Board of Trustees of Samaritan Theological Institute and that would probably be discussed at length at General Conference. Primarily, the new plan would call for a person to fulfill the bulk of her/his study before applying to become a "student minister," the new name to be used for "exhorter." She said she was not happy with how exhorters would be decided upon, under the new plan, and did not feel the training of exhorters should be left to a committee of only three people, located away from the local church where the exhorter would be serving. A lot of new report writing would be required. She suggested that more and more decisions of how pastors "live and breath" were being placed in the hands of district and national committees and she feared that this would bring about a real decay in the local church. There might be good people who want to become ministers in MCC who are not twenty-two and right out of seminary. Rev. Hougen, a member of the DRC, said he felt the new plan placed an impossible load on the committee. Rev. Karen Ziegler suggested that people write to the Board of Elders expressing their concern about "a growing government from above." Rev. Shelley Hamilton offered a motion that a statement of concern be drafted at a Providence Exhorters' Conference the last weekend in March and alternative proposals drawn up on behalf of the district. The motion passed unanimously.
- H. Adjournment - Ken Barr offered a motion that thanks be given to MCC Hispana for doing a good job hosting this conference under very adverse circumstances, and a hearty hand of applause was given. The meeting adjourned c. 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Gerig
Bruce Gerig, secretary

Appendix A



Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

110 MARYLAND AVE., N.E., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002 (202) 543-2260

November 22, 1978

Rev. Edward F. Houghton
151 Cambridge Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Dear Rev. Houghton:

Your check for \$100 to the Washington Office arrived this morning, and I want to take some time to write you and thank you for your generosity.

Your kindness at this time will help pay for the typesetting and printing of the November-December issue of Gays On The Hill. We were going ahead with the production of the issue on faith alone, and your check's arrival this morning was an answer to our prayers.

If there is anything that this office can do to be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to let us know. Thank you again for your generosity. May God continue to bless you in your work.

Sincerely,

Adam

A. Adam DeBaugh
Social Action Director

ENDING

PS: Please share this with others in
the Northeast District.
Love, A.
Proclaim Liberation in the Land.

Appendix B

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOURTH QUARTER
10/20/78 - 2/4/79

BALANCE ON HAND 10/20/78		\$ 986.25
INCOME: Tithes	\$451.32	
Conference Offering	142.41	
TOTAL INCOME	\$593.73	593.73
TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE		\$1,579.98

EXPENSES: WORKING FUND		
Telephone	\$ 94.47	
Travel	179.96	
Copies & mailing	45.90	
Innovative Ministry	75.00	
Washington Office	100.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$495.33	495.33
BALANCE ON HAND 2/4/79		\$1,084.65

BALANCE BY FUND: Escrow	* \$ 491.11
Working	358.44
Prison Ministry	86.05
Women's Task Force	149.05
	\$1,084.65

* Escrow is still owed \$100.00 by the Fellowship for travel of Rev. Ragona to Council of Churches in March 1978.

Respectfully Submitted
February 4, 1979
Gloria J. Audet, Treasurer, NED

MCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT LAY COUNCIL
Third Meeting, MCC Hispana Conference, February 3, 1979

- A. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m. by Belle Pellegrino, chairperson, at MCC Hispana, 21st St. and Park Ave., New York, NY. Eighteen lay people signed the secretary's official roll for the meeting.

The chair explained that she would have to leave in ten minutes to attend a NED Board of Home Missions meeting that had been scheduled at the same time as this meeting. Several members asked Belle Pellegrino if she could speak with the district coordinator, recommending that in the future these meetings not be scheduled at the same time.

- B. Goals for the Lay Council - Bob Stevens (MCC Boston) asked whether it was clear just what the goals of the Lay Council were. Various members suggested ideas:

"Education of lay people is important. Do the people in our churches know, e.g., what the Office of Lay Concerns is all about? Do they know how important it is for them to take an active part on the district as well as the local level?"

"I think we need to find and develop the potential of lay people to contribute to the ministry of MCC, and we need to try to clarify what our ministry and role within the church are. How do we feel about various Fellowship By-Law revisions that have been suggested and that will be discussed at General Conference?"

"I think there needs to be more communication between the churches, between the lay concern contacts in the various churches in our district."

"The Layperson's Guide to MCC that Jean Gralley prepared prior to her leaving was really a good tool to introduce lay people to the district. We should make sure this publication is kept in print and up-to-date."

The chair suggested that perhaps a questionnaire could be distributed in the various churches to help get lay people involved and to give them an opportunity to have input into various issues being discussed. She invited anyone who wished to write to her to do so, using the following address: Ms. Belle Pellegrino, MCC Providence, 5 Junction St., Providence, RI 02907.

- C. Lay Concern Contacts - The chair read off the old list of lay concern contacts for the various churches in the district, and two vacancies were filled (for MCC Hispana and MCC Syracuse). The new roster includes:

Alpha and Omega MCC - Lupe Martinez	MCC New York - Ellen Pollack
MCC Boston - Bob Stevens	MCC Providence - Bill Counts
MCC Hartford - Bob Marche	MCC Syracuse - Mike Hayden
MCC Hispana - Paul Paoletti	MCC Worcester - Ken Barr
MCC New Haven - (Contact Ken Theriault or Gloria Audet, worship coordinators)	

- D. Travel Expenses for the Lay Representative - One member suggested that it would be good if the Lay Rep could travel around to various churches in the district, meet with people there, and let them know that other lay people in the district are concerned about them. We all need to find out what other churches are doing and we need to encourage the local congregations to become more involved with MCC on its different levels.

A resolution was offered for presentation to the NED business meeting: It is recommended that travel expenses be provided from the district's escrow fund for the lay representative to visit churches in the district. Discussion:

One person asked if the resolution should be broadened to provide for the Lay Rep to attend the General Conference this summer, and Belle Pellegrino replied that this would not be necessary because she would be going as a delegate from MCC Providence. It was the consensus of the group that it is very important for the Lay Rep to attend the general conferences.

(Belle Pellegrino had to leave the meeting and turned the chair over to Bruce Gerig. Bruce asked "someone else could serve as acting secretary for the remainder of the meeting, and Lupe Martinez agreed to do so.)

The question was raised whether a limit should be set on what could be spent. The acting chair suggested that perhaps this be left up to the Board of Home Missions and the Lay Rep, and that the Lay Council just see how it works out in practice.

Vote: 15 for, 0 against. RESOLUTION PASSED.

- E. Revision of Fellowship By-Laws - The acting chair mentioned that a lot of discussion and writing had gone on on various levels in the Fellowship with regards to suggesting major changes in the Fellowship By-Laws this coming August. He raised the question whether lay people in the NED would like to have any input into this thinking through the district Lay Council. No one present, however, had seen very much of the material that had been suggested or had copies of the material that had been sent out from Samaritan Theological Institute.

It was suggested that the Lay Rep and lay council secretary try to gather relevant material and pass it on to the lay concern contacts so they could gather input from lay people in the various churches. Also, should we schedule a discussion of these proposed changes at the next Lay Council meeting in Syracuse?

Fred Nesetritl (MCC New York) offered a resolution to be presented to the NED business meeting: The Lay Council would like to discuss recommendations for Fellowship By-Law changes at the next district conference in Syracuse, and it requests that it be scheduled a two-hour block of time for meeting.

Vote: 14 for, 0 against. RESOLUTION PASSED.

- F. Election of a Lay Council Secretary - The acting chair said that probably the position of Lay Council secretary should be discussed. Bruce commented that he had more or less "fallen into the position" when the Lay Council started, being district secretary, but that no provision had been made actually for filling this office or specifying any term of office. He encouraged other lay people to run for this office.

With suggestions coming from various members, the following resolution was drafted for presentation to the NED business meeting: The Lay Council shall elect a secretary and the term for this office shall run for two years, concurrent with the term of the Lay Representative and with the present term ending in February, 1980. Discussion:

One member suggested that it would be good to have the secretary appointed by the Lay Rep to make sure that they could work together well. Others felt that it would be highly unlikely to have two elected persons who could not work together in these offices. Another member said he feared favoritism would go along with appointment.

A member asked what the duties of the secretary were, and Bruce replied that although nothing had been written out, the main duties were (1) to take minutes of the meetings, type them up, xerox them, and see that they are distributed; and (2) to help the Lay Rep in other ways that she/he could be helpful.

Vote: 16 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions. RESOLUTION PASSED.

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of secretary, and a motion was offered that Bruce Gerig be elected by acclamation.

Vote: 16 for, 0 against, 1 abstention. Bruce was elected lay council secretary.

- G. Other Matters - Marsha Geyer (MCC New York) asked if the Lay Council could discuss the recommendations for inclusive language being drawn up by the Women's Task Force. The acting chair replied that the council could at its next meeting and suggested that perhaps in the meantime the leaders of the Women's Task Force and of the Men's Task Force might bring together their input.

One member said that he really liked the new publication Laity that had been put out by Jean Gralley and, if this newsletter could be continued, it would be a good idea.

- H. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Gerig
Bruce Gerig, secretary

Lupe Martinez
Lupe Martinez, acting secretary

INFORMATION SHEET
NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE MAY 18-20, 1979

Mailing address: MCC
116 Fairfield Av.
Syracuse, New York 13207

Phone numbers: Church residence 315-478-5225
Plymouth Church (DRC, Friday) 315-474-4836
Grace Church (Friday evening and all day Saturday 315-478-0901
Printers Devil (Sun. AM) 315-475-6857

DIRECTIONS TO GRACE CHURCH: From Boston take Interstate 90 to exit "Syracuse, Rt. 481." Take 481 to 690 West. Follow 690 West to the Teal Av. Exit. Turn left at bottom of ramp onto Teal Av. Follow Teal Av. to Erie Blvd. (2nd stop-light, a major intersection with several gas stations). Turn right on Erie Blvd. and follow it to University Av. Turn left on University Av. Go approx. five blocks to Madison St and turn right. Park in parking lot next to church. APPROXIMATE TRAVEL TIME 7-8 HOURS.

From NYC--Two possibilities: (1) Take Interstate 87 north to Albany. Take Interstate 90 west from Albany and follow directions above.
(2) Shorter route with no tolls. Take Palisades Parkway north to Route 6. Take Route 6 west to Route 17 and take 17 west to Binghamton. Take Route 81 north to Syracuse. Take Exit #17, "Adams St.". Go forward ("straight") at bottom of ramp two blocks. Turn right on Madison St. (a small street) and go three blocks to church. Pull into parking lot on left. (If you miss Madison St., the next light is Genesee St. Turn right on Genesee and go to University Av. and turn right again.) APPROXIMATE TRAVEL TIME 6 HOURS.

HOTELS/MOTELS: Treadway Motor Inn. 1060 E. Genesee St., corner of E. Genesee St. and University Av., one block from Grace Church.

Phone: 315-476-4212

Rates: Single \$17.50, Double \$22. (mention MCC for these rates)

Holiday Inn. 701 E. Genesee St., corner of Almond St. and E. Genesee St.

Four blocks from Grace Church.

Phone: 315-474-7251

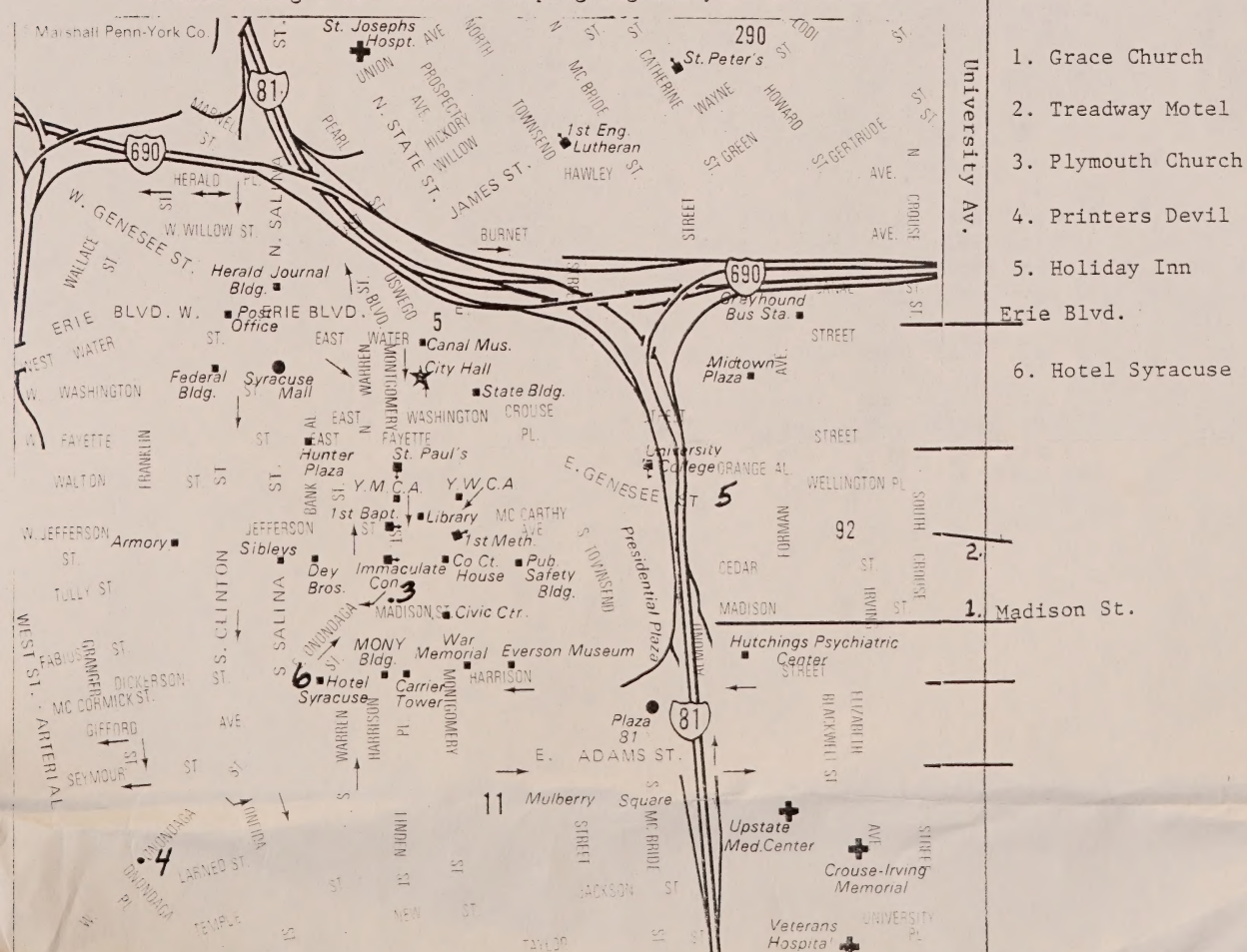
Rates: Single \$32. Double \$37. (\$4.00 each for 3rd and 4th persons)

Hotel Syracuse. 500 S. Warren St. In the heart of the downtown, near Plymouth Church and the bars. Six blocks from Grace Church.

Phone: 315-422-5121

Rates: Single \$25, \$28, and \$30. Double \$30, \$35, and \$37.

Please bring a bed roll or sleeping bag and your own towel.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY MAY 18

- 9:00am--5:00pm District Review Committee
Plymouth Congregational Church
232 E. Onondaga St. 474-4836
- 12 noon Lunch for all people being interviewed by the DRC
Plymouth Church
- 5:00pm--12 midnight Registration, Food available
Grace Episcopal Church
819 Madison St. (corner of University Av.) 478-0901
- 8:00pm Exhorters Meeting
- 10:00pm Worship led by Deacons

Saturday, May 19 Everything at Grace Church

- 8:00am--11:00am Breakfast and Registration
- 8:30am Opening Worship
- 9:00am--10:50am Deacons
Board of Home Missions
- 11:00am--12:30pm Women's and Men's Taskforces meet together for a presentation
on Inclusiveness
Racism Taskforce
Prison Ministry Taskforce
- 12:45pm--2:00pm Lunch, including Welcome, Announcements, and Worship Experience
- 2:00pm--3:20pm Workshops:
Authority
Holy Communion
Ministry
Creative Scrounging Field Trip
- 3:30pm--4:50pm Workshops:
Authority (Repeat of first session)
Holy Communion (Repeat of first session)
Personal Worship
Creative Scrounging Applied
- 5:00pm Office of Lay Concerns
- 5:30pm--6:30pm Happy Hour
- 6:45pm Supper
- 8:00pm Teaching on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- 8:50pm Prelude and Prayer Time
- 9:00pm Worship
- 10:30pm Reception

Sunday, May 20 Business Session

- Printers Devil
385 W. Onondaga St. 475-6857
- 9:00am Continental Breakfast
- 9:30am Business Session
- 11:30am Send Off Worship

Feel free to bring musical instruments and a light and joyful heart.

NED

REGISTRATION FORM
NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE, MAY 18-20, 1979

MAIL WITH FEE TO: MCC
116 FAIRFIELD AV.
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13207

Each person should use a separate form except for couples and families.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone(s) _____

Female _____ Male _____

Names and ages of children _____

Will you need housing? Yes _____ No _____ (Please bring bed role and towel.)

Special needs (allergies etc.) _____

Do you smoke? Yes _____ No _____

Arrival: Day _____ Time _____ am _____ pm _____ Car _____ Train _____ Bus _____ Flight number _____ airline _____

Will you have a car available to you during conference? Yes _____ No _____

We are a small group and are asking for volunteers at meal times. Please sign up to help with a meal.

Sat. Breakfast	Sat. Lunch	Sat. Supper	Sat. Eve.	Sun. Breakfast
set up _____	set up _____	set up _____	Reception	set up _____
clean up _____	clean up _____	clean up _____	set up _____	clean up _____

So we can adequately plan for your comfort, please preregister as far in advance as possible.

Fee before May 5 \$10.00

Fee after May 5 \$15.00

Special limited income fee with pastor's signature, before May 5 \$5.00

Pastor's signature _____

MCC

Metropolitan
Community
Church
of
Syracuse

Parsonage: 116 Fairfield Avenue
Syracuse, New York 13207

(315) 478-5225

Bob Freeman-Jones
Coordinator

March 11, 1979
Pastors and Worship Coordinators
Northeast District Churches

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Your church is receiving registration blanks and information sheets for District Conference, May 18-20. We need your help in urging people to preregister.

PLEASE NOTE:

**Preregistration deadline is May 5.

**The special fee for limited incomes is a preregistration fee. All people should pay \$15 after May 5.

Registration is also possible "at the door", but any advanced warning will be greatly appreciated.

The theme for District Conference is "Worship". We hope you and your congregation will be remembering the conference in prayer that all who attend can carry home a renewed sense of the risen Lord and a greater understanding of one another.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Bob

Rev. Bob Freeman-Jones

*Thanks for agreeing to do the presentation on
Inclusiveness. See you in Florida.*

Bob

They
were
all filled
with
the Holy
Spirit



ACTS 2:1-4

" AND WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST WAS FULLY
COME, THEY WERE ALL WITH ONE ACCORD IN
ONE PLACE.
AND SUDDENLY THERE CAME A SOUND FROM
HEAVEN AS OF A RUSHING MIGHTY WIND, AND
IT FILLED ALL THE HOUSE WHERE THEY WERE
SITTING.
AND THERE APPERED UNTO THEM CLOVEN TON-
GUES LIKE AS OF FIRE, AND IT SAT UPON
EACH OF THEM.
AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY
GHOST, AND BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER
TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE."

HECHOS 2:1-4

" CUANDO LLEGO EL DIA DE PENTECOSTES, ESTABAN
TODOS UNANIMES JUNTOS.
Y DE REPENTE VINO DEL CIELO UN ESTRUENDO
COMO DE UN VIENTO RECIO QUE SOPLABA, EL
CUAL LLENO TODA LA CASA DONDE ESTABAN
SENTADOS;
Y SE LES APARECIERON LENGUAS REPARTIDAS,
COMO DE FUEGO, ASENTANDOSE SOBRE CADA UNO
DE ELLOS.
Y FUERON TODOS LLENOS DEL ESPIRITU SANTO,
Y COMENZARON A HABLAR EN OTRAS LENGUAS,
SEGUN EL ESPIRITU LES DABA QUE HABLASEN."

U.F.M.C.C.
NORTHEAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 2 AND 3, 1979

CHARISMATIC SERVICE

I- CALL TO WORSHIP

II-OPENING PRAYER

III- ANOUNCEMENTS

HIMN- HEAVENLY SUNSHINE #31

HIMN- EVERY TIME WE FEEL THE SPIRIT #20

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY - EMMET WATKINS

HIMN- LETS TALK ABOUT JESUS #65

SCRIPTURE READING

SERMON

ALTAR CALLING PRAYER

HIMN- ALABARE

SHARING OF THE PEACE



Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches

Northeast District Conference



Feb. 2 & 3

M.C.C. Hispana
21st Street & Park Ave.

UNIVERSAL FELLOWSHIP OF METROPOLITAN
COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Northeast District Conference

MCC HISPANA

February 2,3

PROGRAM

Friday Evening

7:00	-	11:00	Registration
7:00	-	9:00	Exhorter Meeting
8:30	-	10:00	Board of Home Mission (in the Chapel)
9:00	-	10:00	Task Force on Racism
10:00	-	11:00	Worship Service by the deacons of the District

Saturday 3

8:00am	--	11:00 am	Registration
8:00	-	9:00	Breakfast (parish hall)
9:00	-	10:00	Carismatic Service in the Sanctuary

BREAK

10:15	-	1:00pm	Workshop in the parish hall
1:30	-	2:30	Lunch in the parish hall
2:30	-	3:15	Task Forces Meetings Men in the Chapel Women in the sanctuary Racism in the sanctuary Prison Ministry in the Entrance.

BREAK

3:30 - 4:30 Office of Lay Concern in
the parish hall

Break

5:00 - 6:30 Business Meeting in the
parish hall

6:30 - 7:30 Dinner in the Parish Hall
Entertainment

8:30 - 9:30 Worship Service ++

10:00 - ? Dance at the Gay Triangle
Community Center 26 9th
Ave. Bet. 13&14 Sts. +

+Persons wearing Conference name tag enter free
others will pay \$3.00 at the door.

++ All ministers should wear vestment and deacons
and exhorters their collar for the Saturday
evening service.

If you don't know where is the Gay Triangle
Center please ask anybody of MCC NY or MCC
HISPANA they will ^{be} very happy to ~~give~~ you
directions.

Don't keep your faith, it will get spoiled/share
it with your friends and enemies.

Give love for hate and you will reap more Love.

THEME

" Strengthening our churches through developing our resources: People and Money."

Reaching out to new people. Strengthening and retaining the members. Developing money resources.

We are hoping that this Conference will be a revitalizing one, and that it will encourage every Church's member to be more active in the life of their Churches, spiritually and financially.

We, at MCC Hispana, welcome each and every one of you. There will be a little bit of almost everything in this Conference; music, plays, entertainments, drinks, meetings, dances, laughs, tears of joy, spiritual revival, foods, tongues, exotic drinks, tamborines, Spanish-typical food, etc. And a lot of LOVE.

This is the first time that MCC Hispana host a District Conference. It is our first experience please bear with us.

With Christ's love

M C C Hispana

NED

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH of PROVIDENCE
P.O. BOX 1462
Providence, Rhode Island 02901

TO OUR BROTHER AND SISTER CHURCHES:

When it became apparent at the recent District Conference that the proposed by-law amendment affecting the status of exhorters was not in the best interest of our exhorters or this District, it was proposed that we hold a miniconference here at Providence to deal with this issue.

Everyone, exhorter or not, who is interested in the exhortership and the enlisting and training of potential ministers for MCC (particularly the lay representatives from each church and elected delegates to General Conference) are urged to attend.

We will have plenty of time to discuss the By-Law proposal, enjoy a weekend of community as fellow student ministers and their friends (which our training methods rarely allow), and do some work in the areas of homiletics (preaching and sermon preparation) and liturgics. Exhorters are urged to bring a sermon to work on or a pericope which they would like to use to shape a sermon. Others may use the time as they choose, or as a spiritual retreat.

The Parsonage at Providence is well-equipped for group activities, has a library, study rooms, a chapel, a fireplace, and sufficient sleeping area for many guests. People who play instruments are invited to bring them, and we have a piano. We have sufficient seating for about 25 at a meal, if that many want to come.

Please bring a sleeping bag if you have one and one item to contribute to a communal meal. (Suggestions: Hot dogs, a box of macaroni (elbows), cheddar cheese, canned vegetable, canned or fresh fruit, box of jello, salad greens, hamburger, whatever.) We'll take it from there.

A registration form is attached. Please return it to us by February 23rd, so we can make housing plans for you. We're looking forward to this weekend. We hope you are.

In Christ's love,

MCC Providence

* * * * *

NAME _____ Exhorter: ☒ Yes ☐ No

MCC _____ I will be arriving by
Amtrak ☐ Car ☐ Bus

I have special needs:

Bed _____ Friday Eve: _____ p.m.

Allergy to _____ Saturday Morn. _____ a.m.

Other _____

I am a vegetarian: ☐ Yes ☐ No I expect to leave Saturday _____ p.m.
Sunday *****

Rev. Ed. Hougen will be our guest Sunday evening, and you are invited to stay for services with us.

TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:
When it became apparent at the recent District Conference that the proposed by-law amendment regarding the status of representatives was in the best interest of our extension on this District, it was proposed that we hold a conference here at Providence to deal with this issue.

Everyone, extension or not, who is interested in the extension and training of essential ministers for the District is invited to the District Conference. We have elected delegates from each church and elected delegates to General Conference. We are urged to attend.

We will have plenty of time to discuss the proposed by-law amendment of conference as well as other matters of importance. (which our training committee has already discussed and discussed with the Extension Committee) and we will have a session to work on a petition which they would like to use to amend a canon. Others may wish to discuss other matters, or we will discuss them.

The conference at Providence is well equipped for group activities. It has a library, study room, a chapel, a kitchen, and a dining room. It also has a room for many guests. Those who stay in the conference are invited to bring their own food. We have a room for about 25 people. It has a room for about 25 people.

Those who bring a sleeping bag or tent will have a room in the conference. We have a room for about 25 people. We have a room for about 25 people. We have a room for about 25 people. We have a room for about 25 people.

A registration form is attached. Please return it to us by February 15th, so we can make housing plans for you. We're looking forward to this weekend. We hope you are.

In Christ's love,

W.C. Providence

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

Rev. Ed. Brown will be our guest speaker on Sunday evening, and you are invited to stay for services with us.

NED

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH of PROVIDENCE
P.O. BOX 1462
Providence, Rhode Island 02901

TO OUR BROTHER AND SISTER CHURCHES:

When it became apparent at the recent District Conference that the proposed by-law amendment affecting the status of exhorters was not in the best interest of our exhorters or this District, it was proposed that we hold a miniconference here at Providence to deal with this issue.

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We will have plenty of time to discuss the By-Law proposal, enjoy a weekend of community as fellow student ministers and their friends (which our training methods rarely allow), and do some work in the areas of homiletics (preaching and sermon preparation) and liturgics. Exhorters are urged to bring a sermon to work on or a pericope which they would like to use to shape a sermon. Others may use the time as they choose, or as a spiritual retreat.

The Parsonage at Providence is well-equipped for group activities, has a library, study rooms, a chapel, a fireplace, and sufficient sleeping area for many guests. People who play instruments are invited to bring them, and we have a piano. We have sufficient seating for about 25 at a meal, if that many want to come.

Please bring a sleeping bag if you have one and one item to contribute to a communal meal. (Suggestions: Hot dogs, a box of macaroni (elbows), cheddar cheese, canned vegetable, canned or fresh fruit, box of jello, salad greens, hamburger, whatever.) We'll take it from there.

A registration form is attached. Please return it to us by February 23rd, so we can make housing plans for you. We're looking forward to this weekend. We hope you are.

In Christ's love,

MCC Providence

* * * * *

NAME _____ Exhorter: ☒ Yes ☐ No

MCC _____ I will be arriving by
Amtrak Car Bus

I have special needs:

Bed _____ Friday Eve: _____ p.m.
Allergy to _____ Saturday Morn. _____ a.m.

Other _____
I am a vegetarian: ☐ Yes ☐ No I expect to leave Saturday _____ p.m.
Sunday *****

Rev. Ed. Hougen will be our guest Sunday evening, and you are invited to stay for services with us.

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT (NEW) BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, October 1, 1977 - 3:50-4:50 p.m.

MCC New York Sanctuary, New York, NY

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Shelley Hamilton, outgoing assistant district coordinator of the old Northeast District, who chaired until a district coordinator was elected for the new district. Jay Friend served as acting secretary until a secretary was elected.

A. Delegates Seated

From MCC Boston.....	Rev. Edward Hougen.....	Ms. Jean Gralley
	Rev. Marge Ragona	
From A/O MCC Brooklyn.....	Rev. Dee Jackson.....	Mr. Bruce Gerig
From MCC Hartford.....	Rev. Jay Deacon.....	Ms. Kitty Blissit
From MCC Hispana.....	Rev. Jose Mojica.....	Mr. Angel Hernandez
From MCC New York.....	Rev. Gilbert Lincoln.....	Mr. Hugh Bruce
	Rev. Shelley Hamilton	Mr. Phil Eberle
	Rev. Jim Beers	Mr. Bob Molle
	Rev. Michael Nordstrom	
	Rev. Karen Ziegler	
From MCC Providence.....	Rev. Steve LaFever.....	Mr. Billy Mencer
From MCC Syracuse.....	Mr. Bob Freeman-Jones.....	--
From MCC Worcester.....	--	Ms. Joby Vick

B. New Business1. Election of New Northeast District Officers

- a. District Coordinator - Rev. Shelley Hamilton and Rev. Edward Hougen were nominated. Rev. Hougen was elected by a vote of Hamilton-6, Hougen-13, abstention-1.
- b. Assitant District Coordinator - Rev. Shelley Hamilton was nominated and elected unanimously.
- c. Secretary - Mr. Bruce Gerig and Ms. Jean Gralley were nominated. Ms. Gralley declined the nomination. Mr. Gerig was elected unanimously and Mr. Bill Smith replaced Mr. Gerig as voting lay delegate from Alpha and Omega MCC.
- d. Treasurer - Ms. Gloria Audet (an exhorter from MCC Hartford serving with MCC Worcester) and Mr. Steve Pierce (from MCC Boston) were nominated. Ms. Audet was elected by a vote of Audet-17, Pierce-4.

2. Financial Support for NE District Innovative Ministries - Rev. Nordstrom asked what district funds might be available for this work. (A stipend of \$25/month had been provided to him in the past as director of this ministry.) The chair recommended that this matter be tabled until the next district business meeting, since the financial situation of the new district is not yet known. Ms. Nancy Avar, outoing NE District treasurer, reported that this figure would not be available until her books were closed on October 15, 1977.

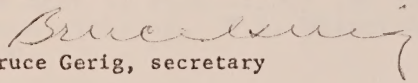
3. Chairperson of District Prison Ministries - The chair recommended that Mr. Freeman-Jones continue as chairperson, and this motion was passed unanimously.

4. District Finances - The chair motioned that all financial considerations be tabled until the next district business meeting and that any current expenses that have to be outlaid be submitted at that time for reimbursement retrospectively. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Photographing of the Business Meeting - Rev. Lincoln announced that a photographer from New York University had come in who wanted to take some photographs. The chair suggested that perhaps those who did not wish to be photographed might sit to the chair's right and asked if there were any objections (none were voiced). A motion of approval for the photographs to be taken was passed unanimously.
6. Report on District Innovative Ministries - Mr. Smith asked if Rev. Nordstrom could give a report on this ministry at the next district business meeting, and the chair replied that he would ask Rev. Nordstrom if this could be done.
7. Greetings from Rev. Troy Perry - Rev. Perry gave warm greetings to the conference delegates and friends and invited them to the evening service at which he would preaching.
8. Filling of Other District Posts
 - a. The chair recommended that persons already serving in district posts be asked to continue if they are willing to do so, and no objection was raised.
 - b. UFMCC Commission on Government, Structures and Systems - Rev Deacon has been serving as district clergy delegate and Ms. Gralley as district lay delegate. Both said they were willing to continue serving and their names were accepted unanimously. For alternate lay delegate, Ms. Lupe Martinez (from Alpha and Omega MCC) was nominated and elected unanimously.
 - c. UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries - One delegate asked what the relationship was between this and the district prison ministries, and no one knew. It was not known if anyone was presently serving as district representative for the UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries. The chair asked Mr. Freeman-Jones if he would be interested in serving in this post, but he declined.
 - d. Motion for a Nominating Committee - The chair asked if the delegates would like for it to present nominations for the rest of the posts, at the next district business meeting. Mr. Gerig spoke in favor of encouraging more lay person participation in decision-making in the district and offered a motion that a nominating committee of three clergy and three lay people be elected from the floor to prepare a slate of nominees for the posts that need to be filled, for presentation at the next district business meeting. He asked the chair if such a slate would be open for additional nominations at that meeting, and the chair agreed that this would be the case. Rev. Ragona suggested that 2 clergy and 2 lay persons be elected instead of three each, and this amendment was accepted by Mr. Gerig. The motion to elect this nominating committee was passed, with 10 ayes, 6 nays, 1 abstention.
 - e. Election of a Nominating Committee - Rev. Ragona and Rev. Beers were nominated for the clergy members and were elected by 13 ayes, 5 nays. Mr. Jerry Cunningham, Mr. Bill Smith and Mr. Fred Bradford were nominated to serve as lay members; and Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Smith were elected by a vote of Cunningham-15, Smith-14, Bradford-10 (delegates voted for two persons each).
 - f. Other District Posts That Might Need To Be Filled
 - i. UFMCC Commission on Faith, Fellowship and Order - The district delegate to this commission is appointed by the Board of Elders and is not elected or appointed from within the district.
 - ii. UFMCC Financial Advisory Board - Rev. Lincoln now serves as clergy representative and Ms. Audet at lay representative. Ms. Audet said she did not wish to continue serving. (This post is then referred to the nominating committee.)
 - iii. UFMCC Task Force on Women - The district women were asked to elect a representative in caucus following this business meeting.
 - iv. UFMCC Task Force on Men - The district men were asked to elect a representative in caucus following this business meeting.

- v. NE District Board of Home Missions - A lay representative needs to be elected. Rev. Lincoln made a motion that this representative not be on the slate to be drawn up by the nominating committee, and this motion passed with 9 ayes and 5 nays. Rev. Ragona offered a motion asking that action on this matter be tabled until the next district business meeting so that inquiries could be made in the local churches as to who might be available to serve. Rev. Lincoln objected to the chair's acceptance of this motion and asked that its acceptance be decided by the floor; and the vote to sustain the chair's acceptance of the motion was passed by 13 ayes, 4 nays. The vote on the motion to wait until the next district business meeting to elect this lay representative was passed by 15 ayes, 5 nays.
9. Next Northeast District Conference and Business Meeting - Mr. Smith announced that MCC Hartford had offered to host the next conference, perhaps sometime in February, 1978. There was some discussion of dates, and Rev. Lincoln said that he would prefer that it not be during Lent. Since Ash Wednesday falls on February 8, it was suggested that the dates for the next conference be the weekend of February 3-4. This motion was acceptable to Rev. Deacon and MCC Hartford and was passed by the delegates unanimously.
10. Financial Support for the UFMCC Field Office in Washington, D.C. - Mr. Adam DeBaugh, UFMCC Social Action Director, reported that General Conference had only allocated \$50/month to his office for printing, expenses, etc., and that it was necessary therefore to raise additional funds for this ministry. He asked if our district could help. Because of lack of funds, for example, his office has had to fall behind in the printing of Gays on the Hill. The chair asked if this could be tabled until the next district business meeting, along with other financial matters, because of the recent restructuring of the district. Mr. DeBaugh said he would send the chair a letter with more information on this.
11. MCC Syracuse Anniversary - Mr. Freeman-Jones announced that on December 3, 1977, MCC Syracuse would be one year old; and he invited everyone to come up to celebrate with them that weekend. Fliers are available giving further information.
12. Change of Ministers at MCC Providence - A motion was offered that an applause of praise be given to Rev. LaFever who would be leaving MCC Providence and of welcome be given to Rev. Ragona who will be assuming the pulpit there November 1. The motion was passed unanimously and a loud applause was given.
13. Rev. LaFever made a motion to adjourn and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Bruce Gerig, secretary

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

P.O. BOX 1462

Providence, R.I. 0291

TO: All MCC Ministers in the Northeast District
ALL Delegates to the February N. E. District Conference

First, let me wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our Christmas in Providence was especially marked by the outpouring of generosity by the Falcons Motorcycle Club, who took our childrena need to heart. Instead of gifting each other at their annual Christmas party, each of them brought a gift for a child, and we were able to provide each of the 24 children in our church with a Christmas present -- and for some of the younger and needier children, there were more. This marked a special bond between the gay men and the gay parents of our community.

Now to business: I am taking the liberty of contacting you in the name of the nominating committee elected at last District Conference. As you are aware, District Conference is five weeks away. The Nominating Committee would like input from the various churches to help us bring a truly representative slate before the business meeting of the District. You will find a form attached that might be of help in letting you give us the information we need.

If you have an especially good candidate for a post, jot a note down as to why s/he is particularly suited to the post. Please don't feel that you must confine yourself to your own church, although it would be helpful for us to know of someone from each church who would be suitable. However, if there is someone particularly suitable from another MCC, please tell us that also. It would be helpful for you to check with the people involved to see if they will accept and to include phone numbers so we can check with them prior to the meeting, should they be nominated.

The following positions are open -- but are not among those which the Nominating Committee can bring suggestions for. They are here for your information only:

UFMCC Commission on Faith Fellowship & Order -- Appointed by the Board of Elders, and not elected or appointed from within the District.

UFMCC Task Force on Women -- Must be chosen by the women present at the District Conference. This post is open to both clergy and laity, and in most districts is held by a woman minister. N.E. District women have usually elected a lay person.

UFMCC Task Force on Men: As above.

Lay Representative - N.E. District Board of Home Missions -- The Nominating Committee is especially not empowered to bring a nominee for this post, however, you might be thinking especially about this position, as it is a very valuable place for lay input into the District deliberations concerning missions and study groups.

TO: All MOC Ministers in the Northeast District
All Delegates to the February M.E. District Conference

First, let me wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Our Christmas in Providence was especially marked by the outstanding
generosity by the Wilsons-Holmesville Club, who took our children
to the beach. Instead of sitting each other at their annual
Christmas party, each of them took a gift for a child, and we were
able to provide each of the 24 children in our church with a Christmas
present -- and for some of the younger and needier children, the
very more. This marked a special bond between the city men and the
city women of our community.

Now to business: I am taking the time to be connecting you to the
name of the M.E. District Committee elected at last District Conference.
As you are aware, District Conference is five weeks away. The
District Committee would like to meet from the various churches to help
us bring a truly representative district before the business meeting of
the District. You will find some attached that might be of help
in letting you give us the information we need.

It may have an especially need a midstate for a post. Please don't
forget why it is especially suited to the post. Please don't
forget you must write yourself to your own church, although it would
be helpful for me to know of someone from each church who would be
available. However, it is a somewhat particularly reliable from
another MOC, please tell us that fact. It would be helpful for you
to check with the people involved to see if they will accept and to
include phone numbers so we can check with them prior to the meeting.
Should they be a midstate.

The following committee are open -- but are not among those who the
Nominating Committee are bringing suggestions for. They are here for
your information only:

U.M.C. Committee on Pastoral Relations -- appointed by the
Board of Bishops, and not elected or appointed from within the District.

U.M.C. Task Force on Women -- that be chosen by the Board of Bishops
and the District Committee. This post is open to both clergy and laity.
and is most districts is held by a woman minister. M.E. District
women have usually elected a lay person.

U.M.C. Task Force on Youth -- above.

U.M.C. Task Force on Social Action -- The
Nominating Committee is especially open to women to bring a resolution
for this post, however, you might be thinking especially about
action, as it is a very valuable place for lay input into the
District deliberations concerning missions and study groups.

The positions which we are asked to bring nominees for follow:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board: Clergy Representative is Rev. Gilbert Lincoln. The lay representative is now open.

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries. This Board deals with campus, hospital, and other such specialized ministries. It may be either a clergy person or a lay person.

You will find a form at bottom of this page where you may make suggestions to the nominating committee. We will then discuss and bring nominations at the District Conference.

We look forward to seeing you all in February.

In Christ,

Rev. Jim Beers
Rev. Marge Ragona
Mr. Jerry Cunningham
Mr. Fred Bradford
Mr. Bill Smith

TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

My suggestion for nominees for the following positions are:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board:

Lay Representative: _____ Church _____

Special Qualifications _____

Phone Number: _____

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries: _____

Church _____ Home Phone No. _____

Special Qualifications: _____

Please return to:
Rev. Marge Ragona, MCC Providence
5 Junction Street
Providence, R.I. 02907

Signed
Minister _____ Delegate _____

05907 Providence, R.I.
Providence, R.I.
Providence, R.I.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE

P.O. BOX 1462

Providence, R.I. 0291

TO: All MCC Ministers in the Northeast District
ALL Delegates to the February N. E. District Conference

First, let me wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our Christmas in Providence was especially marked by the outpouring of generosity by the Falcons Motorcycle Club, who took our children's need to heart. Instead of gifting each other at their annual Christmas party, each of them brought a gift for a child, and we were able to provide each of the 24 children in our church with a Christmas present -- and for some of the younger and needier children, there were more. This marked a special bond between the gay men and the gay parents of our community.

Now to business: I am taking the liberty of contacting you in the name of the nominating committee elected at last District Conference. As you are aware, District Conference is five weeks away. The Nominating Committee would like input from the various churches to help us bring a truly representative slate before the business meeting of the District. You will find a form attached that might be of help in letting you give us the information we need.

If you have an especially good candidate for a post, jot a note down as to why s/he is particularly suited to the post. Please don't feel that you must confine yourself to your own church, although it would be helpful for us to know of someone from each church who would be suitable. However, if there is someone particularly suitable from another MCC, please tell us that also. It would be helpful for you to check with the people involved to see if they will accept and to include phone numbers so we can check with them prior to the meeting, should they be nominated.

The following positions are open -- but are not among those which the Nominating Committee can bring suggestions for. They are here for your information only:

UFMCC Commission on Faith Fellowship & Order -- Appointed by the Board of Elders, and not elected or appointed from within the District.

UFMCC Task Force on Women -- Must be chosen by the women present at the District Conference. This post is open to both clergy and laity, and in most districts is held by a woman minister. N.E. District women have usually elected a lay person.

UFMCC Task Force on Men: As above.

Lay Representative - N.E. District Board of Home Missions -- The Nominating Committee is especially not empowered to bring a nominee for this post, however, you might be thinking especially about this position, as it is a very valuable place for lay input into the District deliberations concerning missions and study groups.

TO: All New Ministers in the Northeast District
All Delegates to the February 1962 District Conference

First, let me wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our Ministers in Providence were especially marked by the enthusiasm and hospitality of the Belmont Memorial Club, who took our children to have a party at their home at their annual Christmas party. Each of them brought a gift for a child, and we were able to provide each of the 24 children in our church with a Christmas present -- and for some of the younger and needier children, there were more. This was a special bond between the city men and the city parents of our community.

Now to business: I am taking the liberty of contacting you in the name of the standing committee elected at last District Conference. As you are aware, District Conference is five weeks away. The Standing Committee would like to have your input from this time onwards to help us bring a truly representative slate before the business meeting of the District. You will find forms attached that will be of help in listing you give us the information we need.

If you have an especially good candidate for a post, let a note come to why you are particularly suited to the post. Please don't feel that you must confine yourself to your own church, although it would be helpful for us to know of someone from each church who would be suitable. However, if there is someone particularly suitable from another MOC, please tell us that also. This will be helpful for you to speak with the people involved to see if they will accept and to include phone numbers so we can check with them prior to the meeting, should they be nominated.

The following positions are open -- but are not among those which the Standing Committee can bring suggestions for. They are here for your information only:

District Commission on Youth Fellowship & Order -- appointed by the Board of Bishops, and not elected or appointed from within the District.
YMOC Task Force on Women -- Minister chosen by the women or sent to the District Conference. This task force is open to both clergy and laity. The District is held by a woman minister. M.E. District women have usually elected a lay person.

YMOC Task Force on Men: As above.

Lay Representative -- M.E. District Board of Home Missions -- The Standing Committee is especially open to suggestions for a nominee for this post, however, you might be thinking especially about this position, as it is a very valuable place for lay input into the District deliberations concerning missions and study groups.

The positions which we are asked to bring nominees for follow:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board: Clergy Representative is Rev. Gilbert Lincoln. The lay representative is now open.

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries. This Board deals with campus, hospital, and other such specialized ministries. It may be either a clergy person or a lay person.

You will find a form at bottom of this page where you may make suggestions to the nominating committee. We will then discuss and bring nominations at the District Conference.

We look forward to seeing you all in February.

In Christ,

Rev. Jim Beers
Rev. Marge Ragona
Mr. Jerry Cunningham
Mr. Fred Bradford
Mr. Bill Smith

TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

My suggestion for nominees for the following positions are:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board:

Lay Representative: _____ Church _____

Special Qualifications _____

Phone Number: _____

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries: _____

Church _____ Home Phone No. _____

Special Qualifications: _____

Please return to:
Rev. Marge Ragona, MCC Providence
5 Junction Street
Providence, R.I. 02907

Signed
Minister _____ Delegate _____

The positions which we are asked to bring a name for follow:

WMCC Financial Advisory Board: Gladys representative is now open.

WMCC Board of Institution: Gladys representative is now open. This board is with one, Gladys, and other such social activities. It is to be a social activity board for a day or two.

WMCC Board of Institution: Gladys representative is now open. This board is with one, Gladys, and other such social activities. It is to be a social activity board for a day or two.

In United

Rev. J. M. Brown
Rev. J. M. Brown
Mr. J. M. Brown
Mr. J. M. Brown
Mr. J. M. Brown

WMCC Board of Institution

My new edition for a minute for the following positions are:

WMCC Financial Advisory Board

WMCC Board of Institution

WMCC Board of Institution

WMCC Board of Institution

WMCC Board of Institution

WMCC Board of Institution

WMCC Board of Institution

WMCC Board of Institution

WMCC Board of Institution

WMCC Board of Institution

DISTRICT CONFERENCE ,NEW YORK
OCT. 1977

The New York Conference last month will always be marked by the historic splitting of the district. The old Northeast District (once extending from New Hampshire through Virginia) , is now divided into the new Northeast (Northern New Jersey to Portsmouth, N.H.) and the new Mid-Atlantic district (Philadelphia through Norfolk, Va.).

Even though there'd been talk of it over the last two district conferences, many did not feel psychologically prepared for this split. There were, however, several compelling, practical reasons for it. First, our district co-ordinator, Howard Gaas, had accepted a pulpit outside the district and this was to be his last meeting with us. So there was a need to elect a new co-ordinator. But again and again over the past year Howard had tried to impress us with the sheer unwieldiness of so large a district. On one hand, churches were feeling they didn't see their co-ordinator nearly enough while, on the other, Howard felt exhausted and impoverished by all the travelling he was doing, and also neglectful of his own church.

The district had not taken well, in the past, to the suggestions that the district co-ordinator have four "assistants" under him to share the load or that the district co-ordinatorship be an un-parished position. Both of these suggested a further loss of contact with the people.

The ultimate solution came in New York city where the need to replace Howard prompted the vote to divide into smaller units. Hereby we procure for ourselves the kind of district government we once had and had outgrown: district officers who are nearby and accountable, and a district co-ordinator who can travel shorter distances to be in touch with all the churches while maintaining a pastorate.

There was, of course, some sadness when the vote came in. Many friends won't be together again until General Conferences (now every two years) or until Regional Conferences develop. What joy there was in the decision was particularly vocal in the many smaller churches who have often had to travel enormous distances on tiny budgets for our conferences. They received the vote with whoops of relief and applause.

When the division of a district comes about, the new unit has to re-organize itself from ground zero. Every office must be duplicated and every position re-filled. Our new district personnel is as follows:

District Co-Ordinator	Ed Hougen, pastor MCC-Boston
Ass't District Co-Ordinator	Shelley Hamilton, assoc. pastor MCC-N.Y.
Treasurer	Gloria Audet of MCC-Worchester
Secretary	Bruce Gerig of MCC-Alpha & Omega/Brooklyn

The new co-ordinator of the Mid-Atlantic district is Don Borbe, pastor of MCC-Philadelphia. Jay Deacon and myself were "re-instated" as the clergy and lay delegates to the Commission of Government, Structures & Systems. One very important and interesting new position remains

(The following is taken from Dean Greeley's report to the congregational meeting of the October district conference.)

...This district conference of October 1977 had an additional distinction: Troy Perry flew in from California to address us, his first public address since his sixteen day fast. In the high-energy, whirlwind style that usually characterizes MCC's founder and convinced everybody he was well on his way to health. Rev. Perry told us the story of that fast. For most of us, it was the first complete accounting we'd heard. In fact, one of the predominate motifs in the conversations that weekend between clergy people and lay alike was anger and upset with the lack of communication we'd received from the West Coast. For this reason, I want to devote a part of this report to the story of that fast for a congregation that contributed generously to ending it.

Rev. Perry explained how he was consecrating the elements at a communion service several weeks ago, at a time of imminent threat to gay rights in California. He suddenly had a vision that very clearly told him that he was to fast and that he was to fast until he had raised \$100,000 to counter a referendum the legislature was considering. He told several people what he was about to do and received nearly unanimous disbelief in return. For the first several days of his fast, his closest friends grilled him as to his true motives, his impracticality and his possibly melodramatic methods. The raising of \$100,000 was an unusual and, to some, galling object of a fast. This was a soul-searching and trying time for Troy. He continued on, however, and when friends realized he was utterly willing to fast to the death, support and publicity slowly but surely began to build.

Troy told us about sitting on the steps of the Court House, day after day, with some possessions strewn around him; what it was like speaking to people going up and down the steps, some he got to see regularly who became friends, others who openly distained him. He told a story about a little boy who wandered up, attracted by his radio. Every day he'd come by and ask to play again with that radio and Troy would let him take it with him for a little while; it was shaped and painted like a beer can and the boy liked to mill around in the Court House crowd, raising the radio to his mouth and gulping. One day after about a week of this, the kid indicated he really would like to have that radio for himself. Troy asked him if he'd really take good care of it and when the boy promised he really would, Troy let him go off with it. Very soon afterwards, a grandmotherly figure was seen rushing back to Troy, dragging the little boy behind her. "Did you give this radio to my grandson?" she demanded. When Troy said yes, he did, she spit out, "Well, I want you to know I'm NOT in favor of gay rights!"; and as she sped off, dragging the boy away again, he turned around and yelled back, waving his beer can, "But I am!"

There were stories like these that had us howling. But there were also stories of illness, depression and increasing weakness. One particularly poignant moment was when Troy was describing to some people how the only sustenance he allowed himself was communion, given to him every day by a different minister of the Fellowship. And every day, in spite of the growing difficulty of his ordeal and the critically ill health he suffered, the communion "felt like a full meal."

There has been criticism of Troy's fast and the poor information flow surrounding it. But now the hundred-thousand dollars has been raised (a woman in the ^{Mid} Northwest put it over the top with a contribution of \$20,000). And now it seems that hundred-thousand or more will indeed be needed to arm the community in another struggle against prejudice. For me, and for many others at the district conference who had had doubts, I came away with an entirely different perspective. I very strongly felt that our conference had an additional blessing added to the good and productive and important work we'd done: we'd also been visited by a truly great man.

to be filled. In fact it was purposely not filled at the district conference so that clergy and delegates could have more time seeking out nominees at their home churches. A new office has been created by the Board of Elders for the Fellowship, the Office of Lay Concerns, a very significant step in equalizing the relationship between the clergy and laypeople. (For more details on the Office at the Fellowship level, please see "Guide" section). At our district level, whatever lay person would occupy the position would 1) be present at all Board of Home Mission meetings (until now, consisting only of ministers of chartered churches who use the meeting to discuss sensitive "problem areas" in their churches) 2) co-ordinator of a meeting between the district and visiting liason Elder which must center on lay concerns and not be shorter than on-half hour and 3) spokesperson of the laypeople of the district to the district government and to the General Conference. Being part of the Office of Lay Concerns, such a district representative may also be able to participate in Fellowship committees which are now open to Lay Concerns Reps. If you are interested in this office and want more details, get in touch with your friendly, local district co-ordinator (how local can you get...).

Our next district conference will be in Hartford, Connecticut, the weekend of February. It will have as its theme Government, Structures and Systems, explaining in a very clear way just what that unhandily-named commission is all about. It will also be a weekend of input from our district to the commission. I will be making a presentation at that conference as your GSS delegate.

This district conference of October 1977 had an additional distinction: Troy Perry flew in from California to address us, his first public address since his sixteen day fast. In the high-energy, whirlwind style that usually characterizes MCC's founder and convinced everybody he was well on his way to health, Rev. Perry told us the story of that fast. For most of us, it was the first complete accounting we'd heard. In fact, one of the predominate motifs in the conversations that weekend between clergy people and lay alike was anger and upset with the lack of communication we'd received from the West Coast. For this reason, I want to devote a part of this report to the story of that fast for a congregation that contributed generously to ending it.

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promised he really would, Troy let him go off with it. Very soon afterwards, a grandmotherly figure was seen rushing back to Troy, dragging the little boy behind her. "Did you give this radio to my grandson?" she demanded. When Troy said yes, he did, she spit out, "Well, I want you to know I'm NOT in favor of gay rights!" ; and as she sped off, dragging the boy away again, he turned around and yelled back, waving his beer can, " But I am!"

There stories like these that had us howling. But there were also stories of illness, depression and increasing weakness. One particularly poignant moment was when Troy was describing to some people how the only sustenance he allowed himself was communion, given to him every day by a different minister of the Fellowship. And every day, inspite of the growing difficulty of his ordeal and the critically ill health he suffered, the communion "felt like a full meal."

There has been criticism of Troy's fast and the poor information flow surrounding it. But now the hundred-thousand dollars has been raised (a woman in the Northwest put it over the top with a contribution of \$20,000). And now it seems that hundred-thousand or more will indeed be needed to arm the community in another struggle against prejudice. For me, and for many others at the district conference who had had doubts, I came away with an entirely different perspective. I very strongly felt that our conference had an additional blessing added to the good and productive and important work we'd done: we'd also been visited by a truly great man.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
P.O. BOX 1462
Providence, R.I. 0291

TO: All MCC Ministers in the Northeast District
ALL Delegates to the February N. E. District Conference

First, let me wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our Christmas in Providence was especially marked by the outpouring of generosity by the Falcons Motorcycle Club, who took our children need to heart. Instead of gifting each other at their annual Christmas party, each of them brought a gift for a child, and we were able to provide each of the 24 children in our church with a Christmas present -- and for some of the younger and needier children, there were more. This marked a special bond between the gay men and the gay parents of our community.

Now to business: I am taking the liberty of contacting you in the name of the nominating committee elected at last District Conference. As you are aware, District Conference is five weeks away. The Nominating Committee would like input from the various churches to help us bring a truly representative slate before the business meeting of the District. You will find a form attached that might be of help in letting you give us the information we need.

If you have an especially good candidate for a post, jot a note down as to why s/he is particularly suited to the post. Please don't feel that you must confine yourself to your own church, although it would be helpful for us to know of someone from each church who would be suitable. However, if there is someone particularly suitable from another MCC, please tell us that also. It would be helpful for you to check with the people involved to see if they will accept and to include phone numbers so we can check with them prior to the meeting, should they be nominated.

The following positions are open -- but are not among those which the Nominating Committee can bring suggestions for. They are here for your information only:

UFMCC Commission on Faith Fellowship & Order -- Appointed by the Board of Elders, and not elected or appointed from within the District.

UFMCC Task Force on Women -- Must be chosen by the women present at the District Conference. This post is open to both clergy and laity, and in most districts is held by a woman minister. N.E. District women have usually elected a lay person.

UFMCC Task Force on Men: As above.

Lay Representative - N.E. District Board of Home Missions -- The Nominating Committee is especially not empowered to bring a nominee for this post, however, you might be thinking especially about this position, as it is a very valuable place for lay input into the District deliberations concerning missions and study groups.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF PROVIDENCE
P.O. BOX 1462
Providence, R.I. 0291

TO: All MCC Ministers in the Northeast District
ALL Delegates to the February N. E. District Conference

First, let me wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our Christmas in Providence was especially marked by the outpouring of generosity by the Falcons Motorcycle Club, who took our children need to heart. Instead of gifting each other at their annual Christmas party, each of them brought a gift for a child, and we were able to provide each of the 24 children in our church with a Christmas present -- and for some of the younger and needier children, there were more. This marked a special bond between the gay men and the gay parents of our community.

Now to business: I am taking the liberty of contacting you in the name of the nominating committee elected at last District Conference. As you are aware, District Conference is five weeks away. The Nominating Committee would like input from the various churches to help us bring a truly representative slate before the business meeting of the District. You will find a form attached that might be of help in letting you give us the information we need.

If you have an especially good candidate for a post, jot a note down as to why s/he is particularly suited to the post. Please don't feel that you must confine yourself to your own church, although it would be helpful for us to know of someone from each church who would be suitable. However, if there is someone particularly suitable from another MCC, please tell us that also. It would be helpful for you to check with the people involved to see if they will accept and to include phone numbers so we can check with them prior to the meeting, should they be nominated.

The following positions are open -- but are not among those which the Nominating Committee can bring suggestions for. They are here for your information only:

UFMCC Commission on Faith Fellowship & Order -- Appointed by the Board of Elders, and not elected or appointed from within the District.

UFMCC Task Force on Women -- Must be chosen by the women present at the District Conference. This post is open to both clergy and laity, and in most districts is held by a woman minister. N.E. District women have usually elected a lay person.

UFMCC Task Force on Men: As above.

Lay Representative - N.E. District Board of Home Missions -- The Nominating Committee is especially not empowered to bring a nominee for this post, however, you might be thinking especially about this position, as it is a very valuable place for lay input into the District deliberations concerning missions and study groups.

To: All MC Ministers in the Northeast District
All Delegates to the 1974 N.E. District Conference

First, let me wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our Christmas in Providence was especially marked by the outstanding generosity by the Persons Neighborhood Club, who took our children to the beach. Instead of sitting on the beach, we went to the beach. Each of them brought a gift for a child, and we were able to provide each of the 12 children in our church with a Christmas present -- and for each of the younger and visiting children, there were more. This was a special bond between the church and the community.

How to business of the church the idea of contacting you in the name of the existing committee elected at last District Conference. As you know, District Conference is five weeks off. The existing committee would like to have the church members to help us bring a truly representative church before the business meeting of the District. You will find a form attached that will be of help in letting you give us the information we need.

If someone can especially good a minister for a post, let a statement as to why a person is particularly suited to the post. Please don't feel that you must confine yourself to your own church, although it would be helpful for us to know of someone from each church who would be suitable. However, if there is someone particularly suitable from another MCC, please tell us that too. It would be helpful for you to check with the pastor/leader to see if they will accept and to include those numbers as we can check with them prior to the meeting. Should they be appointed.

The following positions are open -- but are not among those which the Nominating Committee can bring suggestions for. They are here for your information only:

WFOC Commission on Faith, Fellowship & Order -- Appointed by the Board of Bishops, and not elected or appointed from within the District.

WFOC Task Force on Women -- First be chosen by the women present at the District Conference. This post is open to both clergy and laity, and is most desirable is held by a woman minister. N.E. District women have usually elected a lay person.

WFOC Task Force on Man -- as above.

Interdisciplinary - N.E. District Board of Home Missions -- The Nominating Committee is especially not be elected to bring a nominee for this post, however, you might be thinking of a religious person that is a very valuable asset. Don't forget to let the District's religious organizations and study groups.

The positions which we are asked to bring nominees for follow:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board: Clergy Representative is Rev. Gilbert Lincoln. The lay representative is now open.

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries. This Board deals with campus, hospital, and other such specialized ministries. It may be either a clergy person or a lay person.

You will find a form at bottom of this page where you may make suggestions to the nominating committee. We will then discuss and bring nominations at the District Conference.

We look forward to seeing you all in February.

In Christ,

Rev. Jim Beers
Rev. Marge Ragona
Mr. Jerry Cunningham
Mr. Fred Bradford
Mr. Bill Smith

TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

My suggestion for nominees for the following positions are:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board:

Lay Representative: _____ Church _____

Special Qualifications _____

Phone Number: _____

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries: _____

Church _____ Home Phone No. _____

Special Qualifications: _____

Please return to:
Rev. Marge Ragona, MCC Providence
5 Junction Street
Providence, R.I. 02907

Signed

Minister _____ Delegate _____

positions which we are asked to bring names for follow:

Worcester Advisory Board. Clergy representative is Rev. G. L. Fort Lincoln. The lay representative is now open.

Worcester Board of Christian Ministry. This is to be set with some one, possibly, and other such local ministerial. It may be either a clergy person or a lay person.

You will find a form at bottom of this page where you may make suggestions to the nominating committee. It will then discuss and make suggestions of the District Conference.

Look forward to seeing you all in March.

IN GRATE

Rev. J. M. Davis
Rev. J. M. Davis
Mr. J. M. Davis
Mr. J. M. Davis
Mr. J. M. Davis

TO THE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

My suggestions for names for the following positions are:

Worcester Advisory Board:

Lay Representative: _____ Church _____

Special Qualifications: _____

Worcester Board of Christian Ministry:

Church _____ Home Phone No. _____

Special Qualifications: _____

Rev. J. M. Davis, Worcester, Mass.

Providence, R.I. 02907

31 and

Ministerial Delegation

The positions which we are asked to bring nominees for follow:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board: Clergy Representative is Rev. Gilbert Lincoln. The lay representative is now open.

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries. This Board deals with campus, hospital, and other such specialized ministries. It may be either a clergy person or a lay person.

You will find a form at bottom of this page where you may make suggestions to the nominating committee. We will then discuss and bring nominations at the District Conference.

We look forward to seeing you all in February.

In Christ,

Rev. Jim Beers
Rev. Marge Ragona
Mr. Jerry Cunningham
Mr. Fred Bradford
Mr. Bill Smith

TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

My suggestion for nominees for the following positions are:

UFMCC Financial Advisory Board:

Lay Representative: _____ Church _____

Special Qualifications _____

Phone Number: _____

UFMCC Board of Institutional Ministries: _____

Church _____ Home Phone No. _____

Special Qualifications: _____

Please return to:
Rev. Marge Ragona, MCC Providence
5 Junction Street
Providence, R.I. 02907

Signed

Minister _____ Delegate _____

...positions which we are asked to bring a minute for follow:

UNION FINANCIAL ADVISORY BOARD: Clergy representative is Rev. Eli-
bert Harrison. The Executive Committee is now open.

UNION BOARD OF INSTITUTIONAL MISCELLANEOUS: This is to be in with com-
mittee, and other such associated agencies. It may be
either a clergy person or a lay person.

Y. M. C. A. Board of Directors of this year wants you very much and
will find the position of Director. It will also be
at the District Conference.

I am looking forward to seeing you in February.

To General:

Rev. J. W. Harris
Rev. J. W. Harris
Rev. J. W. Harris
Rev. J. W. Harris
Rev. J. W. Harris

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

My first action for a number of the following positions are:

UNION FINANCIAL ADVISORY BOARD:

My Representative:

Special Qualifications:

One of

UNION BOARD OF INSTITUTIONAL MISCELLANEOUS:

Chairman

Home Phone No.

2nd I. G. H. Location:

For further information:

Rev. J. W. Harris, HOG Providence

2nd Junction Street

Providence, R.I. 02907

Minister

Deputy

QUESTIONNAIRE

●Our Next District Conference

District conferences are not just for business. They are also for the people of our churches to come together and experience MCC in a way that can be more intense, more educating and more fun than our smaller local experience. It's a special time for us.

Our May conference is in Boston and we would like to create, for the first time, a conference ABOUT lay people. As your new lay representative, I want your ideas. Think about what you have valued at past conferences. What would you like to see at a conference that is meant to express the experience of the people of MCC? What are the important ISSUES? How could it be planned differently this time to involve more of us?

Don't wait until May to participate in our next district conference! You can participate now by sharing ideas and comments you have. Write them on this form and return it to your representative. If you'd like to be kept informed about the progress of this event as ideas are compiled from around the district, or if you would like to actively participate in its planning, be sure to include your name and address.

Meanwhile, feel free to write me at any time at 91 Maple Place, Dedham, MA 02026. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

JEAN GRALLEY

Use the above space and back of form.

●Our Last District Conference (were you there?)

If you were at our last district conference, you would help us a great deal in planning future conferences if you completed this half of the questionnaire.

WAS THIS YOUR FIRST DISTRICT CONFERENCE?

☐ YES

☐ NO

WHAT DID YOU THINK WERE THE BEST ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE? _____

HOW DO YOU THINK THE CONFERENCE MIGHT HAVE BEEN IMPROVED? _____

PLEASE EVALUATE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF THE CONFERENCE:

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Spiritual/worship experience				
Educational/"theme" experience				
Scheduling and planning				
Housing arrangements				
Food				
Lay Participation				

Feel free to use back of form for further comment.

WHAT THEMES OR PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN FUTURE CONFERENCES? _____

WAS THE COST OF THIS CONFERENCE DIFFICULT FOR YOU?

☐ YES

☐ NO

thanks.

Dear Walter —

Good seeing you at Hartford! As the Northeast's new Lay rep I'm sending the enclosed questionnaire to every church in the district through the Lay Delegates — Please read it over with Walt — as you'll see, we're planning a lay conference next time and would like to read MCC-Providence's ideas about possible programming. The second half of the form is an evaluation of the Hartford conference which would also be helpful (— The first part is what's most important though.) Could you please explain to your congregation about this upcoming conference and tell them we really value their thoughts about it — The sooner this questionnaire can get back to me, then, the better — If you get them to Morgan they will find their way to me pretty quickly. I sure wish I could attend MCC-Providence more often (for more reasons than one!) and hope to be seeing you there sometime soon! Take care — please see as many people as possible get these at your next service — and thanks. Love,
Joan

PETITION FOR CHARTERING

We, the undersigned members of Metropolitan Community Church of Providence, a mission in the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, hereby petition the Fellowship to accept this group as a chartered church. We are in agreement with the goals and objectives of the Fellowship and meet the requirements as set forth in the By-Laws of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

We have been a mission for a period of three years, prior to that having been a chartered church. We have shown stability in our finances, our membership and our ministry for the past year, and we are served by a licensed minister in the Fellowship, Reverend Marge Ragona.

In view of these facts we humbly submit our petition.

Reverend Michael S. Nordstrom

William J. Mercer

Philip E. Ebel

Patricia Ryan

Paul H. H. H.

May S. Vitarelli

Catharina A. Appleby

Sydney M. Buehler

Edna M. Mally

Mary M. H. H.

B. H. H. H.

Barbara J. Kendall

Mary I. Comford

Diana B. H. H.

Robert H. Laurie

Belle A. Pellagru

Rev Marge Ragona

Paul H. H. H.

Annita E. D. H.

Stephanie H. H.

Virginia L. Hill

Edna M. Mally

Edna M. Mally

Edna M. Mally

Edna M. Mally

Edna M. Mally

Edna M. Mally

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We have been a mission for a period of three years, previous to that having been a chartered church. We have shown stability in our finances, our membership and our ministry for the past year, and we are served by a licensed minister in the Fellowship, Reverend Marge Rogers.

In view of these facts we humbly submit our petition.

Patricia E. Balle

Rev. Marge Rogers
Minister
Metropolitan Community Church
Providence, Rhode Island

litators'. We do not ^{need} someone who is one more block between the pastor and the people but rather someone who will try to bring out others' strengths. Let's focus not on 'power' but on 'service'."

Vote: Resolution was PASSED unanimously.

D. Election of a new NED Lay Representative

1. Duties of the office - Jean Gralley explained that the district Office of Lay Concerns carries three responsibilities - the Lay Representative (a) must sit on the district Board of Home Missions that discussed problems and changes of status in the local churches; (b) should seek to bring out the resources of lay people in the district, through chairing the district Lay Council meetings, initiating programs, publishing the district newsletter, etc., and (c) has the responsibility of sharing ideas and information with the Fellowship's Office of Lay Concerns, with which she would be involved in Los Angeles.

2. Jean Gralley's resignation - Jean Gralley then resigned as Lay Representative, to be effective Sunday, October 22. Everyone at the meeting gave her a loud applause, expressing their thanks for her service and best wishes on her new position.

3. Who may vote for this position - The chairperson said that the question had been raised as to whether everyone present at this meeting should be allowed to vote or only certain delegated members. Discussion:

"If everyone has a vote, I feel that people from the smaller churches will never have a chance of electing anyone from their groups to this position."

"The idea of all the lay people electing someone from their ranks gives them more input into the process."

"I have a question as to how representative this gathering really is of the lay people of the whole district. If we have a meeting of a district conference in New York, for example, I know we are going to have a huge and disproportionate turnout of lay people from that area at this kind of a meeting."

The chairperson and secretary agreed that it had been decided in the past that only members of MCC's in the district could vote at these meetings. The chairperson said that this question only pertained to the voting for this office; she also noted that since nominees would be speaking briefly of their plans for the office if elected, she hoped that everyone would vote on the candidates' platforms not their popularity.

"I think we're setting a dangerous precedent, so that if a church showed up at this meeting in a great number, its members could vote people in and out of office."

Someone asked what the term of office was and the chair replied that it would be her unfulfilled term, expiring in February, 1980.

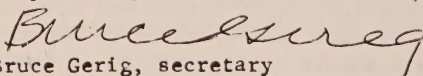
"What about study groups that technically do not have members? Should not they be allowed to have a voice in this vote?"

A motion was placed on the floor: "All lay people present at a Lay Council meeting shall be eligible to vote for the filling of the Office of Lay Representative." The chair ruled that everyone could vote on this motion, and the vote was: In favor-38, opposed-7. Resolution was PASSED.

4. Election of the new Lay Representative - Nominated for the office were: Bruce Gerig (Alpha and Omega MCC), Pat Appleby (MCC Providence), Belle Pellegrino (MCC Providence), Jerry Cunningham (Alpha and Omega MCC), Ken Barr (MCC Worcester - declined), Fred Nesetril (MCC New York - declined), Don Babets (MCC Worcester). The chair asked each nominee to speak for not more than three minutes and all did so. Two votes were taken to reach a majority case for: Belle Pellegrino elected new Lay Representative.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Bruce Gerig, secretary

MCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT LAY COUNCIL
Second Meeting, Providence Conference, October 21, 1978

- A. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order c. 11:45 a.m. by Ms. Jean Gralley, chairperson, at the Mathewson Street United Methodist Church in Providence, RI. Fifty lay people signed the secretary's official roll for the meeting.
- B. Chairperson's Introductory Remarks - Ms. Jean Gralley announced that she had been asked to join the Fellowship offices in Los Angeles, to take charge of the Fellowship Office of Lay Concerns and also to handle all of the graphic design. The main business of this meeting then would be to elect a new Northeast District Lay Representative/Lay Council chairperson. She noted that anyone interested could either nominate himself or herself or be nominated, and that all nominees would be asked to speak concerning their ideas for the office.

She continued, "When we speak about lay people, we are speaking about the whole church and nothing but the church. We as lay people should be concerned about how to become a more effective church and how to fulfill ourselves as a church. . . I see the Office of Lay Concerns from a spiritual perspective. We can get very involved in the political aspects of 'lay people taking over the church' but my premise is that God is calling lay people in MCC to grow, to mature. God is also calling our leaders to change in their attitudes toward lay people."

She noted that there are three problem areas, or areas of opportunity, that we face in this district, in each of our churches, and in the Fellowship. They are: (1) Communication - We need to improve our lines of communication between the Elders and the churches, between churches on the district level, and between the pastor and the board of directors and the people on the local level. (2) Authority - In MCC the people should face a responsibility to pastor, to nurture, each other, not just leave it up to one person in the church. The question should not be "Who has authority?" but "How can everyone find a place in a joint effort for service in the church?" (3) Initiative - What programs can be initiated to improve our communications and make everybody feel a part? What by-law changes are needed? Should there be an annual review of the pastor? One good idea is for a covenant to be set up between the pastor and the people, expressing what each expects of the other, giving each a sense of what her, his or their responsibilities are, and hopefully engendering a sense of partnership, of mutual support.

- C. Discussion of deacons in the district - The chair asked if there were ideas now that lay people would like to bring up for discussion, and Ellen Pollack (MCC New York) said a number of deacons in the district felt that God was calling them to come together in the district to share their concerns and ideas. She suggested that there be a board of deacons in the district, recognized by the district, and that deacons have more spiritual input on the district level. They would like to have workshops and have services at district conferences.

The chair offered a resolution to be presented at the NED business meeting:
It is recommended that the deacons of the district be able to hold deacons' meetings, to share ideas, at district conferences and that they have a service at the next district conference. Discussion:

"We feel as deacons that we have something to give but we're not too sure how to give it. We would like to discuss on the district level: What is a deacon? How do we relate to the congregation, to the pastor, to each other? What is our position in the church?"

"There had been discussions in the past of putting the deacons on the district level; definitely there should be more communication on the district level."

"Sometimes how the deacon's office is articulated depends on the particular needs of the individual church and community."

"I feel that a deacon in one church should be recognized as a deacon in other MCC's. There should be recognition of deacons on the district level."

"We should get away from the idea of 'lay leaders' and think instead of 'lay faci-

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT BUSINESS MEETING
Saturday, October 21, 1978 - Providence Conference

A. Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. at the Mathewson Street United Methodist Church, 135 Mathewson St., Providence, RI, by Rev. Edward Hougen, district coordinator and moderator of the meeting. All lay delegates and alternate lay delegates were requested to register with the district secretary, and the meeting was opened with prayer.

B. Seating of Delegates

1. Report on payment of district tithes - The chair reported that MCC New York and MCC Hispana were behind on payment of tithes to the district, and he recommended that this requirement be waived for them so their delegates could be seated. The motion was carried with one vote "nay" and the rest of the votes "aye."

2. Secretary's roll of registered delegates

From Alpha and Omega MCC.....	Rev. Dee Jackson.....	Mr. Jerry Cunningham
From MCC Boston.....	Rev. Edward Hougen*.....	Mr. Robert Stevens
From MCC Hartford.....	--	Mr. Clyde Proch
From MCC Hispana.....	Rev. Jose Mojica.....	Mr. Andy Fernandez
From MCC New Haven.....	Mr. Ken Theriault.....	--
From MCC New York.....	Rev. Karen Ziegler.....	Mr. Michael Dain
		Ms. Susan Eenigenburg
		Mr. Jim Seal
From MCC Providence.....	Rev. Marge Ragona.....	Mr. William Mencer
	Rev. Michael Nordstrom	
From MCC Syracuse.....	Rev. Bob Freeman-Jones.....	Mr. Michael Hayden
From MCC Worcester.....	Rev. Shelley Hamilton**.....	Mr. Kenneth Barr

Seated as district officers: Mr. Bruce Gerig, district secretary; Ms. Gloria Audet, district treasurer; and Ms. Jean Gralley, lay representative to the Northeast District Board of Home Missions.

* - District coordinator, ** - Assistant district coordinator.

C. Preliminary Reports

1. District secretary's minutes for the last business meeting - A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept as written the secretary's minutes for the Northeast District business meeting held Saturday, May 20, 1978, in Boston.

2. District treasurer's report - Ms. Audet handed out copies of the district financial report for the last quarter (5/19/78 - 10/20/78, see Appendix A). A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept this report.

3. District coordinator's report - During the past quarter, the district coordinator reported that he visited MCC Worcester, MCC New York, and MCC Hispana. The District Review Committee of our district has licensed Rev. Bob Freeman-Jones, and the Northeast District Board of Home Missions recently approved MCC Providence and Alpha and Omega MCC for chartering. Rev. Ann Montague has joined the district as assistant pastor of MCC Boston, Rev. Jay Deacon has left MCC Hartford to become pastor of MCC Chicago, and Rev. Gilbert Lincoln has left MCC New York to assume the pulpit of MCC Nashville. MCC New Haven has been granted study group status and Mr. Ken Theriault and Ms. Gloria Audet have been appointed co-worship coordinators there.

D. Church Reports

1. Alpha and Omega MCC - Mr. Jerry Cunningham announced that Alpha and Omega MCC had been working very hard to prepare for applying for chartering. Now, he wished to invite everyone to join with his church the weekend of October 26-29 for a Spiritual Renewal Conference and its chartering service. Rev. Elder Troy Perry and Rev. Lee Carlton from MCC Jacksonville are to be the guest speakers, and the chartering service would be Sunday at 2 p.m.
 2. MCC New York - Rev. Karen Ziegler reported that although MCC New York had had a lot of problems in the past, twenty people from her church had come to this conference. She also announced that Mr. Alan LaPayover had been appointed co-worship coordinator, a student at Union Theological Seminary in New York.
 3. MCC Hartford - Mr. Clyde Proch commented that MCC Hartford was between pastors at this time, and that Mr. Steve LaFevre is acting worship coordinator of the church. He asked that everyone pray with MCC Hartford that it will find a pastor soon.
 4. MCC Providence - Ms. Belle Pellegrino reported that MCC Providence had been involved with fund-raising projects recently and that they were very happy about becoming a chartered church. He noted that his church was looking forward to a Hallowe'en party being planned for MCC Providence.
 5. MCC Boston - Mr. Robert Stevens reported that MCC Boston had been concerned recently with internal growth as well as an increased outreach in the gay community. His church was very excited about the arrival of Rev. Ann Montague as assistant pastor, from Eugene, OR. The church had worked very hard with the Massachusetts Caucus for Gay Legislation to demonstrate against Anita Bryant when she tried to come to Boston to support some anti-gay leaders.
 6. MCC Hispana - Mr. Andy Fernandez noted that MCC Hispana has begun holding two charismatic services a month, and it is excited about the prospects of starting a new MCC group in Queens. Also, they are laying the groundwork so they can seek to become a chartered church.
 7. MCC Worcester - Mr. Ken Barr commented that since Rev. Shelley Hamilton had come to Worcester, the membership of his church has doubled. The group moved to a new meeting facility, and nine members stepped out in faith to adopt a budget for the coming year of c. \$9,000. Rev. Hamilton was installed in a service led by Ms. Jean Gralley, the first installation service of this kind in MCC to be officiated by a lay person.
 8. MCC Syracuse - Rev. Bob Freeman-Jones noted that MCC Syracuse has begun a tradition of honoring the first ordination of a woman in the Episcopal Church, although such ordinations are not recognized by Episcopal churches in Syracuse. In September the group took part in a rally in Rochester, taking along their MCC banners. He reported that his group was represented by ten people at this district conference and that MCC Syracuse would be celebrating its second anniversary December 3.
 9. MCC New Haven - Mr. Ken Theriault said that this group celebrated its first anniversary this past August and that they were happy to have been received as a study group at the last meeting of the Board of Home Missions.
- E. Greetings from Rev. Elder John Hose - The moderator called on "Papa Hose" who is vice-moderator of the Fellowship and an Elder, asking if he would like to say a few

words. Rev. Elder Hose said that he brought greetings to the Northeast District from the Fellowship's Board of Elders, and that he especially wanted to invite everyone to Los Angeles next summer to take part in the 10th anniversary annual conference of UFMCC. Conferencees will be staying at the first-class Biltmore Hotel, with rooms at good rates; he noted that such notables as Midge Costanza will be present to speak.

Papa Hose told a bit of a trip which he had taken last summer to visit the MCC's in Australasia. He had fellowship with groups in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sidney, and Brisbane in Australia; and with groups in Auckland, New Zealand and Honolulu, Hawaii; and he said that he could only describe his whole visit with MCCers there as a "festival of love." He wanted us to know that our Christian brothers and sisters there are alive and well and that God is working there.

F. Report from the Northeast District Lay Council

1. Report and resolution from the district deacons - Ms. Jean Gralley, chairperson of the Lay Council, announced that the deacons of the district are doing some exciting things and that they had met as a group during this conference and had reported to the Lay Council. The lay people present at the Lay Council had voted that a resolution be presented to the floor of this meeting, coming from some of the deacons, that the deacons of the district be allowed to plan and lead a worship service at the next district conference. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. Jean Gralley's resignation - Jean Gralley announced that this would be her last Northeast District conference for a while since she has been asked to fill and has accepted a post at the UFMCC headquarters in Los Angeles. However, in the eight months since she became lay representative to the Board of Home Missions and chairperson of the Lay Council, she has stood in as the first lay person to install a pastor, she has put together and published the first district newsletter, and she had a hand in MCC Providence and Alpha and Omega MCC being granted their MCC charters and MCC New Haven its study group status. A motion was made and passed unanimously to wish Jean well, the best of success, and God's blessing as she begins her new work on the West Coast. A standing ovation and loud hand of applause was given.
3. Announcement of the new lay representative/Lay Council chairperson - Ms. Jean Gralley announced that at the Lay Council meeting earlier Ms. Belle Pellegrino had been elected to succeed her; and she was given a good hand of applause. She said she knew Belle to be very hardworking and that she knew she would welcome ideas and input from everyone.

G. New Business

1. Proposed district budget for 1979 - The district treasurer handed out copies of a proposed working budget for the coming year (see Appendix B). Robert Stevens asked if \$100 was an adequate sum for outreach in missions, and Gloria Audet replied that if additional money was needed, it could come from the escrow fund. None of the \$360 in that fund had been spent during 1979. A motion was made and passed unanimously to accept the proposed budget for 1979.
2. Election of a lay representative to the UFMCC Commission on Government Structures and Systems - The moderator noted that since Jean Gralley had filled this position, a new person would need to be elected. There was some question as to the length of the term for this office, and Rev. Elder John Hose said that since the commission had been set up for five years and two years had passed, the term should be

for the remainder of that time. Lupe Martinez (Alpha and Omega MCC) and Donald Babets (MCC Worcester) were nominated. The moderator said that since Lupe Martinez is serving as alternate lay representative to this commission at this time the nominee receiving the lower number of votes would serve as alternate lay representative to this commission. The vote was Babets-7, Martinez-5; so Don was elected the representative to this commission and Lupe the alternate representative.

3. Upcoming district conferences - A motion was offered and passed unanimously to set the dates for the winter 1979 district conference, to be hosted by MCC Hispana, for the weekend of February 2-4. The moderator noted that the spring 1979 conference would be hosted by MCC Syracuse and the fall 1979 conference by Alpha and Omega MCC, with the specific dates to be set later.
 4. Request for continued exhorter meetings at district conferences - Bill Mencer reported that the exhorters of the district had had a good two-hour meeting earlier in the day, with a lot of ideas growing out of the discussion. The exhorters would like to continue meeting at district conferences and they would like to request for a two-hour period of time. The motion was passed unanimously.
 5. New NED lay person handbooks - Jean Gralley announced that a second edition had been published of the district lay person's handbook, which is now available for 25¢ each. The new edition has been revised and updated and it contains important information for lay people in the district.
 6. Request for longer meeting time by the Task Force on Racism - Jerry Cunningham asked that the district meetings of this task force also be continued and that the group would like a longer period of time in which to meet. Rev. Marge Ragona said that scheduling for a district conference is very difficult and especially if a conference is only planned for Friday night and a Saturday; she asked whether a two-day schedule was really feasible. The moderator said that groups who ask for extended periods of time shall be given additional time to meet but that they should not expect this to be given during the prime time of a conference.
 7. MCC Providence thanked for hosting conference - Mr. Robert Stevens offered a motion asking that MCC Providence be given a hearty thanks for the love and care that went into the hosting of this conference, and the motion carried.
- H. Adjournment - A motion was made and passed that the business meeting adjourn (time: 9:15 p.m.) and the district secretary closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,


Bruce Gerig, district secretary

APPENDIX A

UFMCC NORTHEAST DISTRICT

FINANCIAL REPORT
THIRD QUARTER
5/19/78 - 10/20/78

BALANCE ON HAND 5/19/78			\$ 511.05
INCOME:			
Tithes	\$	899.75	
Conference Offering		127.00	
Women's Task Force		39.00	
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$1,065.76</u>	1,065.76
TOTAL MONEY AVAILABLE			<u>\$1,576.81</u>
EXPENSES: WORKING:			
Telephone	\$	227.04	
Travel		190.42	
Service Charges		5.30	
Innovative Ministry		150.00	
Copies & Mailing		11.60	
TOTAL WORKING		<u>\$584.36</u>	584.36
Women's Task Force		6.20	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$590.56</u>	-590.56
BALANCE ON HAND 10/20/78			<u>\$ 986.25</u>
BALANCE BY FUND: Escrow		\$372.37	
Working		378.78	
* Prison Ministry		86.05	
* Scholarship Fund		-0-	
Women's Task Force		149.05	
		<u>\$986.25</u>	

*Per District Conference of 5/20/78, all scholarship funds were transferred to prison ministry.

Respectfully Submitted
October 20, 1978
Gloria J. Audet, Treasurer NED

APPENDIX B

PROPOSED N. E. DISTRICT BUDGET
1979

	1978 BUDGET	* ACTUAL EXPENSES	PROPOSED 1979 BUDGET
INCOME:			
TITHES	1,600.00	1,565.61	1,600.00
CONFERENCE OFFERINGS	300.00	291.93	300.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>1,900.00</u>	<u>1,857.54</u>	<u>1,900.00</u>
EXPENSES:			
ESCROW	360.00	-0-	360.00
INNOVATIVE MINISTRY	300.00	300.00	300.00
MAILING & PRINTING	60.00	21.86	30.00
TELEPHONE	600.00	439.31	460.00
TRAVEL AND LODGING	480.00	500.57	550.00
WASHINGTON OFFICE	100.00	100.00	100.00
*OUTREACH IN MISSIONS	--	--	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,900.00</u>	<u>1,361.74</u>	<u>1,900.00</u>

*Figures in this column may vary slightly from financial reports due to payment of last minute items since the printing of the reports.

#Proposed new fund for providing financial assistant in the development of new work. This fund would be supplemented by the Escrow account should the need arrive.

